

**ADAPTIVE REUSE AND AUTHENTICITY;
AN INVESTIGATION OF MANOR HOUSES
IN KANDY, SRI LANKA**

Dissanayake Mudiyansele Kaushalya Gauthami Kumari Dissanayake

228413E

**Master of Science in Architectural Conservation of Monuments and
Sites (ACOMAS)**

Department of Architecture

Faculty of Architecture

University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

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DECLARATION

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the relationship between adaptive reuse and functional authenticity in the conservation of manor houses in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Heritage conservation must strike a balance between preserving historical integrity and ensuring that repurposed buildings remain functional and accessible to contemporary users. Through case studies of Giragama Walawwa and Mampitiya Walawwa, this research evaluates how new uses impact the authenticity of function in heritage buildings. The study employs data collection, including literature reviews, field surveys, and stakeholder interviews. The study employed a combination of data collection methods, including literature reviews, field surveys, and stakeholder interviews. A questionnaire was conducted with 25 participants to explore whether emotional connections to build heritage influence perceptions of its new use. The survey also aimed to identify which elements participants would prefer to preserve, their specific needs as stakeholders, and the essential requirements they believe must be fulfilled for future users in adaptive reuse projects. Findings reveal that adaptive reuse extends the lifespan of heritage structures, but its success depends on selecting a function that aligns with the building's original purpose and is easily adaptable to its user base. When a new use is compatible with the historical identity of the building, it enhances cultural continuity and maintains user engagement. However, inappropriate repurposing can erode authenticity by altering key architectural elements and detaching the structure from its historical significance. The study highlights the need for a structured conservation approach that integrates functional authenticity, ensuring that new uses respect historical narratives while meeting modern needs. By analysing international conservation charters and local policies, the research proposes a guideline the concerns in adaptive reuse projects. Ultimately, this study underscores that the success of adaptive reuse hinges not just on preserving physical structures but on ensuring their continued relevance through meaningful, user-friendly functions.

Keywords: *Functional Authenticity, Adaptive Reuse, Heritage Conservation, User Accessibility, Kandy Manor Houses*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
LIST OF CHARTS	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF MAPS	viii
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	x
LIST OF APPENDICES	xi
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Objectives of the Study	2
1.3 Research Aims and Research Questions	2
1.4 Overview of Chapter	3
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW	4
2.1. Conservation of buildings through adaptive reuse	4
2.2. Architectural conservation and Authenticity of the historical buildings.....	9
CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY	19
3.1. Theoretical Framework	19
3.2 Methodology.....	21
3.3 Data Collection.....	23
3.4 Data Analysis.....	25
CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS.....	28

4.1. Data Collection.....	28
4.1.1. Giramaga walawwa	30
4.1.2. Mampitita Walawwa	37
4.3. Findings	69
 CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION	 79
 REFERENCES.....	 84
 APPENDIX.....	 88

LIST OF CHARTS

Chart and Description	Page
Chart 4. 1 Employment statistics on involvement in archaeology or heritage management, exploring correlations between academic background and professional engagement.	43
Chart 4. 2 Education in Archaeology or Heritage Management.	44
Chart 4. 3 Respondents' User Type of Selected Two Heritage Buildings.	45
Chart 4. 4 Examines perceived benefits and challenges for businesses	46
Chart 4. 5 Responses on the preservation and repurposing of heritage buildings... ..	47
Chart 4. 6 factors in preserving heritage buildings according to respondents.	48
Chart 4. 7 Agreement on preserving authenticity in the conservation process.....	49
Chart 4. 8 Values to preserve in heritage conservation.....	50
Chart 4. 9 Importance of use and heritage values in adaptive reuse.....	51
Chart 4. 10 Count of Authenticity (original form) criteria by perspectives on how authenticity should be maintained in adaptive reuse (ARU) projects.....	52
Chart 4. 11 Thoughts on shops on the ground floor of Giragama Walawwa.	57
Chart 4. 12 Parking preferences near heritage buildings.....	58
Chart 4. 13 How important is the location for new uses of heritage buildings?	59
Chart 4. 14 Responses on Private ownership's impact on maintaining heritage buildings.	60
Chart 4. 15 Responses on making structural changes in walawwa for new use	61

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure and Description	Page
Figure 4. 1 Roof and Traditional Railing of the building	32
Figure 4. 2 traditional decorative carvings (Wadimbu) with narrow steps	32
Figure 4. 3 Kurupa and design of the roof.....	33
Figure 4. 4 How the ground floor of both facades has been used for business.	33
Figure 4. 5 Buildings situation before conservation.....	34
Figure 4. 6 Central Courtyard of Mampitiya walawwa.....	38
Figure 4. 7 Interior of Mampitiya walawwa	39
Figure 4. 8 Entrance a Staircase	39
Figure 4. 9 Photographs used to explain the situation of Giragama walawwa Before and after conservation	56

LIST OF MAPS

Map and Description	Page
Map 4. 1 Kandy city plan in 1815.....	28
Map 4. 2 Zonal values of Kandy city area	29
Map 4. 3 Satalite Map of Giragama Walawwa.....	30
Map 4. 4 Road map of Giragama Walawwa	30

LIST OF TABLES

Table and Description	Page
Table 2. 1 Values and Authenticity	5
Table 2. 2 Identifying some key concepts mentioned in various charters about built heritage conservation	11
Table 2. 3 Grading System of Heritage Buildings in Kandy World Heritage City	17
Table 2. 4 Research Design.....	22
Table 3. 1 Distribution of participants	24
Table 4. 1 Location of the Giragama Walawwa; The Heritage Building.....	31
Table 4. 2 Plans of Giragama walawwa	36
Table 4. 3 Location of the Mampitiya Walawwa; The Heritage Building	37
Table 4. 4 Plans of Giragama walawwa	41

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
DOA	Department of Archaeology
CCF	Central Cultural Fund
ARU	Adaptive Re-Use

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Description	Page
Appendix - I	Sample Questionnaire	88- 104