

**AN ANALYSIS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
STREETSCAPES AND CRIMES IN NUGEGODA
TOWNSHIP**

R.M.S. Pramod

209295F

Master of Urban Design

Department of Architecture
Faculty of Architecture

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work and this dissertation does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any other University or Institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text. I retain the right to use this content in whole or part in future works (such as articles or books).

Signature:

Date:

The above candidate has carried out research for the Masters dissertation under my supervision. I confirm that the declaration made above by the student is true and correct.

Name of Supervisor:

Signature of the Supervisor:

Date:

DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to those who have stood by me during my journey, my family, and friends. Without their help, love, and guidance, I would have never been able to reach my goals. Special thanks go to my mentor and supervisor, whose expertise was invaluable in helping me come up with the research and observations to complete this work. I am also grateful to my teachers, whose encouraging words and rich educational experiences boosted my academic performance throughout my studies. For all these people who believed in me, I am truly grateful. Finally, my deepest admiration and gratitude goes out to all the members of the academic community who have worked to promote research and learning in my field of study. Your contributions to the field are invaluable, and I am proud to stand among the ranks of your esteemed colleagues.

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ABSTRACT

Urban environments play a crucial role in shaping human behaviour and influencing social interactions, including criminal activities. This dissertation explores the intricate relationship between streetscapes and crimes to uncover the underlying factors that contribute to criminal behaviour in urban settings. By analysing the elements and characteristics of streetscapes and their impact on crime patterns, this research aims to shed light on the significance of designing safer urban streetscapes.

The first chapter of the dissertation act as the introduction of the dissertation. It basically contains the background information related to research formulation. The notion of crime has been defined in the second chapter using a range of theories and interpretations. The third chapter examines the literature on urban streets. Here, the chapter specifically consists of previously introduced theories and findings which discuss the relationship between streetscapes and crimes. The third chapter provides the theoretical framework of the research and a full discussion of the methodology. In the theoretical framework, two develop theories and two adopted theories have been established using the literature mentioned in the previous chapters. The first developed theory provides a theoretical base for the relationship between street locations and crime, and the second developed theory introduces a theoretical base for the relationship between street characteristics and crimes. Moreover, the first adopted theory presents the theoretical base for the relationship between urban form & morphology of the streetscapes and crimes and the second adopted theory presents a theoretical base for the relationship between spatial configuration & connectivity of the streetscapes and crimes. The case study analysis can be identified as the fifth chapter of the dissertation. In the case study, the collected data has been statistically and theoretically analysed.

The research findings show there is a clear relationship between streetscape and crimes. Specially, certain street locations, including street nodes, pathways, and areas adjacent to escape routes, along with specific street characteristics such as inadequate lighting, narrow sidewalks, increased pedestrian activity, heavy traffic, wider roads, and poorly maintained streets, demonstrate a discernible association with specific types of crime. Further, there is a positive correlation between crimes and streetscapes characterized by compact urban forms, integration, and connectivity. In that sense, such findings of this dissertation have significant implications for urban designers, urban planners, policymakers, and law enforcement agencies. By understanding the relationship between streetscapes and crimes, stakeholders can develop targeted strategies to create more secure and crime-resistant urban environments. Ultimately, this research contributes to the broader goal of fostering safer cities and enhancing the quality of life.

Keywords: crime, streetscapes, urban designers, street locations & characteristics, spatial configuration, connectivity, crime-resistant urban environments

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