

**EXPLORING THE INFLUENCE OF THE URBAN FORM  
ON THE URBAN VIBRANCY AT THE WATERFRONT  
PUBLIC SPACES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO  
COASTAL SUBURBS OF COLOMBO**

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Degree of Masters of Urban Design

Department of Architecture

University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

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## **DECLARATION**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Urban studies now critically focus on the idea of urban vibrancy, which is characterized by increased human activity and engagement in the rapidly urbanizing world. In the setting of coastal waterfront public places in Sri Lanka, a developing nation where social interactions and urban design are specifically influenced by historical, cultural, and economic variables, this research investigates the dynamics of urban vitality. Although developed nations have performed a great deal of study on urban vibrancy, there is a noticeable knowledge gap about the application of these concepts in South Asia. By examining the connection between urban form elements and the vibrancy of Sri Lanka's coastline waterfront public areas, this study seeks to close that gap.

This study applies a mixed-methods approach to investigate three coastal zones in the western region of Sri Lanka, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data. Using a case study approach, the research combines an extensive literature evaluation with actual data gathered via direct observations, institutional sources, and web base sources. Every coastal stretch's degree of urban vibrancy is evaluated, and the urban form characteristics of the nearby areas are associated with it. The goal of this investigation is to pinpoint the precise urban form features that have the most effects on how vibrant these areas are.

The results are anticipated to offer insightful information to legislators and urban planners, emphasizing the effects of urban form elements density, diversity and design on coastal waterfront public space vibrancy. Furthermore, the study will include recommendations for improving Sri Lanka's underutilized coastal waterfronts, adding to the conversation about sustainable urban development in developing nations. This dissertation seeks to contribute to future urban planning initiatives by addressing the particular difficulties faced by developing nations, promoting more dynamic and sustainable urban environments in Sri Lanka and beyond.

Key words - Urban vibrancy, urban form, coastal water front public spaces

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