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**COMMUNITY ARCHITECTURE ;**  
**AN EVALUATION OF THE EXTENT OF**  
**USER PARTICIPATION**  
**IN THE DESIGN OF THEIR DWELLINGS IN SRI LANKAN**  
**URBAN LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES**



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**Dissertation presented to the**  
**University of Moratuwa**  
**for M.Sc. in Architecture**

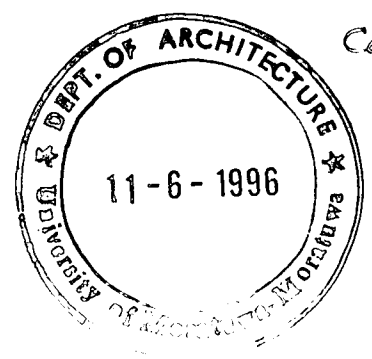
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## ABSTRACT

Provider based mass housing, as a policy, creates a major problem of personalization of dwellings. The present government also believes in provider based housing policy for urban low income communities.

However, it shows that the support based community design paradigm all over the world always has encouraged the user decision making power and user has authentically participated in the process oriented policy.

In community Architectural practice, 3 major themes can be identified :

- 1) Participation ] user centered
- 2) Flexibility ] concepts
- 3) Enablement as professional role.

In this study, more concern is given about the participation theme which increases the user control over his dwelling design. In the first chapter, concept of community architecture and status of each party and their relationship to each party is going to be discussed.

In the second chapter, actual meaning of user participation and its deep psychological relationship with the home as a meaningful authentic place has been discussed in terms of human existence.

The third chapter consists of two parts, the first part discusses the shanty community in terms of socio-cultural and behavioural criteria and try to develop the theoretical perspective about the shanty dweller, and the second part of this chapter mostly concerns about the million housing programme as support-based community design process and its structure and the limitations are going to be discussed.

With the fourth chapter, two case studies under the million housing programme are being investigated and the purpose of comparison and broadening the idea of user participation. Mexicali project is selected to be discussed under the following important criteria:

- 1) Extent of user participation
- 2) Success in terms of architectural compositioning.

Before this, the million housing programme has been discussed in terms of political, economic & social concepts. Further discussion of the extent of user participation towards placemaking will also be a worthy attempt at the evaluation of the million housing programme.

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