LB/DON/99/02/Dept of Arch. UOM

TOWARDS A SOCIO-SPATIAL APPROACH TO URBAN DESIGN AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

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

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA, SRI LANKA
MORATUWA

72"01"
711.6
TH

76186

H.M. Sandun Thushara

M.Sc (Architecture)

2001

DEPT. OF ARCHITECTURE
M.Sc / ~~B.Sc~~
03 JUL 2001
DISSERTATION
~~DESIGN~~
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

University of Moratuwa
76186

76186

UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
LIBRARY
SRI LANKA

TOWARDS A SOCIO-SPATIAL APPROACH TO URBAN DESIGN AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

A Dissertation presented to the

Faculty of Architecture

of the

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

University of Moratuwa

For

Final Examination

M.Sc. (Architecture)

2001

H.M. Sandun Thushara

M.Sc (Architecture)

June 2001

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This study owes much to the assistance and guidance given by all the following, to whom I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude.

Dr. L.S.R. Perera, Senior Lecturer , Dr. Dayananda Waduge , former lecturer, of our academic staff for their inspiration and guidance.

I also wish to thank my colleagues Amal, Ranjan and all others who gave me a helping hand.

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

Last but not least, special gratitude to my parents and Chamarie for bearing with me and supporting me to make my studies a success.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

UNIVERSITY OF
LIBRARY
SRI LANKA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ii
LIST OF FIGURES	iv
ABSTRACT	vii
INTRODUCTION	ix
PART ONE	
CHAPTER ONE	**01**
"UNDERSTAND OF URBAN SPACE"	
1.1 INTRODUCTION	01
1.2 INTERPRETATION OF SPACE	01
1.2.1 .Absolute Space and Rational Space.	02
1.2.2 Space and Mass	02
1.2.3 Space and place	03
1.2.4 Space and Place	04
1.3. SOCIAL DIMENSION OF SPACE	04
1.3.1 Spatial Experience	06
1.3.1.1. Primitive Space	07
1.3.1.2.Perceptual Space	07
1.3.1.3.Existantial Space	08
1.3.1.4 Architectural Space	08
1.3.1.5 Urban Space	10
Discussion	11
CHAPTER TWO	**15**
"HOW URBAN SPACE IS STRUCTURED"	
'Looking Above'	
2.1 INTRODUCTION	15
2.2 URBAN SPACE AS PHYSICAL ENTITY	18
2.2.1 Natural Space.	18
2.2.2.Created Space	21
2.3.URBAN GEOGRAPHY- 'Study of Urban Spatial Structure'	22
2.3.1.Urban Form and Historical Process.	22
2.3.2 The City as Work of Art.	23
2.4 URBAN SOCIOLOGY- 'Study of People and Activities of the City' City as an Embodiment of Functions.	25
2.5 THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE CITY.	27
2.6.URBAN MORPHOLOGY	29
2.7 POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE URBAN STRUCTURE.	31
Discussion	32

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

CHAPTER THREE **35**
MEANINNG AND BEHAVIOUR IN THE URBAN SPACE
'Looking below'

3.1 INTRODUCTION 35
3.2 HOW PEOPLE PRECEIVE SPACE 36
3.2.1.Environmental Cognition 36
3.2.2.Behavioural Approach 38
3.2.3 mapping Urban Images 38
3.2.4 Meaning and Urban Semiotics 41
3.3. 'EVERYDAY LIFE' 44
3.3.1.Perspectives of Everyday Life 44
3.3.2 Individuality in the City 46
3.3.3 Fear and Crime in Urban Space 47
3.3.4 Women and Children in the Urban Space. 51
Discussion 54

PART TWO

CHAPTER FOUR **57**
'SOCIO-SPATIAL PROCESS'

4.1 INTRODUCTION 57
4.2 URBAN DESIGN- IT'S INTERPRETATIONS 57
4.3 SCALE OF URBAN DESIGN 59
4.3.1.Macro-Scale Urban Design 59
4.3.2 Micro- scale Urban design 60
4.4 URBAN DESIGN AS 'A PRODUCT' 61
4.4.1 Urban Design – Visual or spatial management 61
4.4.1.1 Urban Design as Nice Images 61
4.4.1.2 Urban Design as aesthetics of the urban Environment. 62
4.4.2.Urban Design as Social or Spatial Management 65
4.5 URBAN DESIGN AS 'A PROCESS' 66
4.5.1Professional Contribution 66
4.5.2 A public or Private sector Activity 68
4.5.3 Urban Design as Technical Process 70
4.5.4.Urban Design as Social Process. 71
4.5.5 Urban Design as Creative Process. 72
4.5.6.Connectio between Product and Process 74
4.5.7 Towards Socio-Spatial Process 75

Review 77
Conclusion 85
Bibliography 90

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations

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

LIST OF FIGURES

UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
LIBRARY
SRI LANKA

List of Figures **Page no.**

1.Space and time- container of infinite extension or duration. (London) 2

2.Faceds, only containers?(Florence, Italy) 3

3. We cannot have an overview of the space beyond (Casetra,Italy) 4

4.A place in the Space.(Delli,India) 4

5.Internal space , defined by the building itself.(Tajmahal,India) 5

6.Design for Fiat car production, Use for Exhibitions.(Turin,Italy) 5

7.Home-purely emotional and spontaneous. 7

8.Existanal Space-Village,Dagaba and tank. 8

9.Architectural Space (Fallig Water,Edgar) 9

10.Urban Space, space between buildings.(Napoli,Itali) 10

11.urban form –Geometry of socio-spatial continuum.(Totalanga) 17

12.Different buit form According to the condition of natural setting(Roccarso,Italy) 19

13.castles on hill tops-Conrol Topography by the powerful. (Warkworth,UK) 20

14.Higher the point-Safe and security(Sigiriya) 20

15.Old –New stand by side.(Lioyd's tower,UK) 21

16.Urban change by neural disaster(San fransisco) 22

17.City as work of art.(Florence,Italy) 24

18.City as an embodiment of functions.(totalanga) 26

19.Models of urban structure. Concentric, sector and multiple nuclei. 28

20.Urban morphology Systemic study of the form,plan,structure and function. 29

21.Urban space-an agglomeration of production units. (Dessau, Germany) 31

22.There is close relationship between mode of travel and urban space.(Hong Kong) 37

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

23. subjective environment which influences the behavior
(Delli,India) 38
24.Path 29
25.Edge 39
26.District 39
27.Node 40
28.A mental anchor point(Tajmahal,India) 28
29.Sings and symbols –Physical –can perceive from senses.
(Millennium park) 42
30.Familiar logos-convey the meaning of the place.
(Food courts, Majestic city) 43
31.City looking from above-offer limited understanding
(Paris, France) 44
32.City of strangers.(Millennium park) 46
33.Graffity- Is it form of art? 49
34. Social segregation rather than integration
(Overhead bridge in front of Fort railway station.) 50
35.Men in Urban space. 51
36.New role of women. 53
37.Urban design- business, government, planning and design
(Chreton hotel,China) 58
38.Macro scale urban design Organizing of space and functions. 60
39.Micro-scale urban design - Design of small urban places 61
40. Urban design as nice images.(CMRSP,Volume 1) 62
41. Urban design as visual concern. 62

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

42.Market cities with visual improvements.

(Royal park hotel, Hong kong) 63

43. Urban design deals with spatial, rather than

Merely visual aspects of urban environment.(London) 65

44.Traffic management-An aspect of Urban design?(Torrente) 67

45.Visual improvements to serve minority interest?

(California,USA) 69

46.Use of Technological capabilities for urban design 70

47.Introduction of new technology. 71

48.Urban Design- socio-spatial management?(Dublin, Ireland) 72

49.Is design a playful and creation of possible form?

(Guggheinm mesium,New York) 72

50.Desinger's library of images? 73

(Hans Poelzig,Sketch of imaginary city,1922)

51.Parliament grounds 77

52. Millennium Park 78

53.Under ground walk way-Borella junction. 79

54.Colombo-Fort. 80

55.Entrance of the Majestic 81

56.Petta-Bo tree junction. 82

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

ABSTRACT

Abstract

We may be conscious of a constant transformation of urban space rather than the cityscape around us, we live with a mutation that we have came associate with livelihood. Without moment and change , we have learnt that there is no life. This transformation of urban space has to be done very carefully , because it affects people who use and live in it.

"Urban design is concerned with creation, regeneration , enhancement and management of the built environments, which are sensitive to their contexts and sympathetic to people's needs"[1] (Billingham,1994:18)

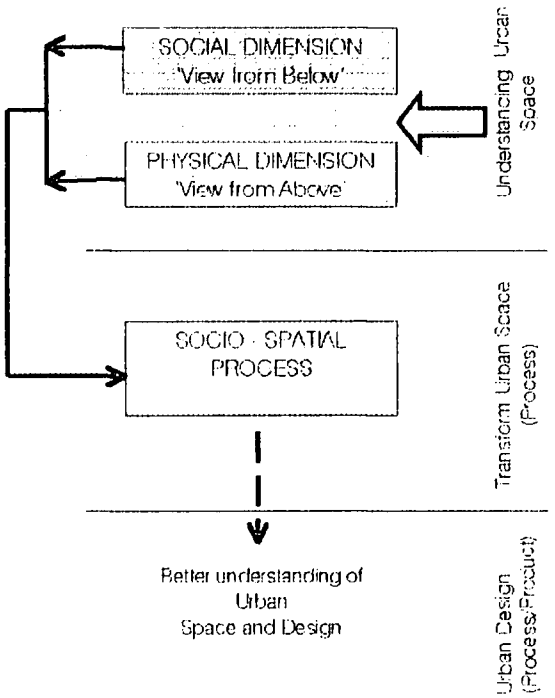
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

As Billingham interprets , this study would explore the Socio-Spatial Process which, address physical dimension and social dimension of urban space simultaneously and as a better process of transformation and to understand urban space.

A socio-spatial view point in which these two dimensions with their complexities are intermeshed will allow us to see how spatial structures express the social

UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
LIBRARY
SRI LANKA

formations as well as how it affects them.



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

First, urban space will be explored through it's physical and social dimensions , in order to understand as it exists in socio-spatial continuum. Special emphasis would be given to dimension of human behavior since it is ignored and insufficiently addressed. Finally study would offer an insight into socio-spatial process as a better way of understanding the urban design process and the space it help to shape.

Reference

1.Billingham, J(ed) : (1995) Urban Design Source Book. London. Urban Design Group.