

LB/DON/87/03

**SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS ARCHITECTURE:
AN EXAMINATION OF THE CO-RELATION BETWEEN
'WAY OF LIFE' AND DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACES.**



A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
MORATUWA, SRI LANKA AS A PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
ARCHITECTURE



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



72"03"

711.6

**WIJESUNDARA, W.M.I.R.
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
SRI LANKA
JANUARY 2003**



79048

79048

UM Thesis

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

This study with many complexities and difficulties, completed due to the assistance, guidance and encouragement by all the following persons, to whom I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude.

Professor Nimal De Silva, Head of the Department, Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa, for guidance given me to this study.

Arch. Vidura Sri Nammuni, Senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa, for the continues guidance, incisive comments, patience and inspiration given to me and directing the many aspects of the study. I am extremely grateful for all his help and appreciate the time and effort extended to me in carrying out this study.

Arch. Dr. R. Emmanuel, senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa, Arch. Madhura Prematilaka, Senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa, Arch. Prasanna Kulatilake, Senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa, and Dr. Ms. Herath, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Colombo, for the guidance and comments given to me.

Let me forward my special thanks to Hasith, Kanaka, Suranga, Priyanka, and her brother, for their support given me. All my colleagues, specially to Sanjeeva, Nuwan, Manori, Rosli, for their support given in different stages.

And my special thanks to my loving parents and brother who always with me, giving their unlimited love and financial support given.

CONTENTS.

Acknowledgements.	
List of illustrations.	ix

INTRODUCTION.


1.0 Preamble.	xi
1.1 Observation.	xi
1.1 Criticality.	xii
1.2 Causes.	xiv
1.3 Remedy.	
1.3.1. Intention of study.	xiv
1.3.2. Scope and limitation.	xv
1.3.3. Method of study.	xv



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

CHAPTER ONE.

1.0 Attributes of Architectural Space and Morphology of Social Consciousness.	01
1.1. Concepts of space and place.	02
1.2 Architectural Space.	03
1.3. Attributes of Architectural Space.	04
1.3.1. Physical, Visual, Spatial Attributes.	04
1.3.2. Psychological Attributes.	05
1.3.3. Social Consciousness as an Attribute.	06

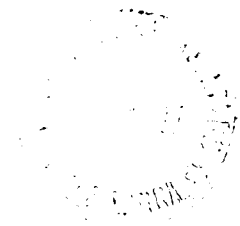
1.3.3.1.Expresson.	08
1.3.3.2.Democratic.	08
1.3.3.3.Responsive.	10
1.4. Morphology of Social Consciousness.	11
1.4.1.Form.	12
1.4.2.Size.	13
1.4.3.Colour.	13
1.4.4.Texture.	14
CHAPTER TWO.	15
1.0 Public space and way of life.	
 University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Electronic Theses & Dissertations www.lib.mrt.ac.lk	
2.1. Public Space.	16
2.1.1.Definition.	
2.1.1.1. Commercial oriented public space	16
2.1.1.2. Recreation oriented public space.	16
2.1.1.3. Transport oriented public space.	17
2.1.1.4. religious oriented public space.	17
2.1.2.public space and it's importance in creating public social life.	17

2.2. Physical Characteristics of the Public Spaces.	18
2.2.1. Location.	18
2.2.1.1. Distinct Orientation.	
2.2.1.2. Variation of levels.	19
2.2.1.3. Physical elements.	20
a. Fixed Elements.	20
b. Semi fixed elemets.	20
c. Non fixed elelments.	16
2.2.2. Fomation.	16
2.2.2. 1 Scale and proposion.	21
2.2.2.2. Boundaries and edges.	21
2.2.2.3. Enclosure.	22
2.2.2.4. Closeness and openness.	23
2.2.3. Harmony.	23
2.2.3.1. Unity and variety.	23
2.2.3.2. Continuity.	24
2.2.3.3. Balance.	25
2.2.4. Visual Definition.	26
2.2.5. Legibility.	26
2.2.5.1. Physical form.	26
2.2.5.2. Patterns of events.	20
2.3. Way of life.	27
2.3.1. Way of life in Urban culture.	29
2.3.2. Needs indicated by Way of Life.	31
2.3.3 Anatomy of way of life.	34
	iii



2.3.4. Response to the way of life.	35
2.3.4.1 Physical elements of the way of life.	35
2.3.4.2. Activities.	35
CHAPTER THREE.	37
3.0. Co – relation between way of life and design of public spaces.	
3.1. Neighbourhood level public spaces.	
3.1.1. Summit flats.	38
3.1.1.1. Description.	40
3.1.1.2. User.	40
3.1.1.3. User needs indicated by way of life.	40
3.1.1.4. Response to the way of life.	40
a. Physical elements.	40
b. Social elements.	41
c. Activities defined by way of life.	42
3.1.1.5. Co- Relation between way of life and public space.	42
a. Activities generated by way of life and physical elements in public space.	42
b. Flow of user and boundaries and edges.	43
c. Sub culture formed by way of life and variety of activities.	44
d. Activities generated by way of life and Openness or close ness of the building.	44

3.1.2. Maligawatta Housing Scheme.	38
3.1.2.1. Description.	48
3.1.2.2. User.	48
3.1.2.3. User needs indicated by way of life.	48
3.1.2.4. Response to the way of life.	48
a. Physical elements.	48
b. Activities defined by way of life.	50
3.1.2.5. Co- Relation between way of life and public space.	52
a. Activities generated by way of life and physical	52
a. Elements in public space.	
b. Flow of user and boundaries and edges.	52
c. Sub culture formed by way of life and	55
variety of activities.	
d. Activities generated by way of life and	57
Openness or close ness of the building.	
3.1.3. Conclusion derived from case studies.	58



3.2. Regional level.

3.2.1. Mount Lavinia supermarket. 59

3.2.1.1. Description. 59

3.2.1.2. User needs indicated by way of life. 59

3.2.1.3. Response to the way of life. 59

a. Physical elements. 59

b. Activities. 60

3.2.1. 4. Co- Relation between way of life and public space. 61

a. Activities generated by way of life and physical
elements in public space. 61

b. Flow of user and boundaries and edges. 61

c. Sub culture formed by way of life and 62

d. variety of activities.

d. Activities generated by way of life and 63

Openness or closeness of the building.

3.2.2. Majestic city Shopping complex. 64

3.2.2.1. Description. 65

3.2.2.2. User. 65

3.2.2.3. User needs indicated by way of life. 65

3.2.2.4. Response to the way of life. 52

a. Physical elements. 66

b. Activities. 66

3.2.2.5. Co- Relation between way of life and public space.	67
a. Activities generated by way of life and physical elements in public space.	67
a. Flow of user and boundaries and edges.	68
b. Activities generated by way of life and Openness or close ness of the building.	68
<i>Conclusions</i> 3.3.-Concltions derived from case studies.	70
3.3. National level public spaces.	71
3.3.1. Independent Square.	71
3.3.1.1. Description.	73
3.3.1.2. User.	73
3.3.1.3. User needs indicated by way of life.	73
3.3.1.4. Response to the way of life.	73
a. Physical elements.	73
b. Activities.	74
3.3.1.5. Co- Relation between way of life and public space.	74
a. Activities generated by way of life and physical elements in public space.	74
c. Flow of user and boundaries and edges.	75
d. Sub culture formed by way of life and	75
	vii



d. Sub culture formed by way of life and variety of activities.	75
e. Activities generated by way of life and Closeness or openness of the building.	75
3.4. Conclusion derived from case study.	76
CONCLUSION.	80
BIBLIOGRAPHY.	84



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

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	Page
1. Fig. 1 – the building express it's functions. Medical faculty building. University of Aachen.	08
2.Fig.2 – George E. De Silva park, Kandy. Accesible to all user groups.	09
3.Fig.3- Echalon Square. Accesibility is limited.	09
4. Fig.4Galle FaceGreen – Enchourage the human participation.	10
5.Fig.5. Independent hall . The built form created sense of belongingness.	12
6.Fig. 6. S.O.S. village, colors responded to child's psychology.	13
7.Fig 7. low scale volumes responded to child's psychological condition	14
8.Fig.8 interior of Hanwella Farm- textures and materials responded to culture.	14
9.Fig.9. signs and symbols important to identify and orient.	20
10.Fig10.variation of levels create sense of entrance.	20
11.Fig.11.Arrangement of fixed, semi fixed and non fixed elements.	21
12.Fig.12. Scale and proportion.	21
13.Fig.13. bus terminal at Matara. Boundaries and edges as gathering places.	22
14.Fig.14.piazza San Piatra- Rome. Sense of enclosure.	23
15.Fig.15. Openness and closeness.	24
16.Fig.16.Variety in built form.	25
17.Fig.17. Framed view.	26
18.Fig.18.Legibility in built form.	26
19.Fig.19.Legibility in events.	28
20.Fig,20.Public social life- Eastern world.	29
21.Fig.21.Public life in Western world.	36
22.Fig.22.Use of pavements.	36
23.Fig.23.Use of pavements.	41
24.Fig.24.Well kept and landscaped roads.	41
25.Fig.25.Housing units separated from each other defining small groups.	43
26.Fig.25 Color and materials enhance the exclusiveness.	43
27.Fig. 27.Boundaries and edges.	49
28.Fig.28.Weather beaten houses with out trees in neighborhoods.	49

29.Fig.29.Neighborhood parks are abandoned by children.	50
30.Fig.30.Main axis and it's Activities.	52
31.Fig.31.Houses extended as shops.	53
32.Fig.32.Boundaries and edges as shops.	54
33.Fig.33.Boundaries and edges as gathering places.	54
34.Fig.34.boundaries and edges faced to litter and vandalism.	55
35.Fig.35.boundaries and edges use for street vending.	56
36.Fig.36.Variety of uses along the main road.	56
37.Fig.37.Neighborhood spoiled with garbage.	57
38.Fig.38.Roads use as garage.	60
39.Fig.39.Various flags, sign boards communicate the functions.	61
40.Fig.40.Central court yard is abandoned.	62
41.Fig.41.Boundaries and edges as parking place, gathering place and use for street vending.	63
42.Fig.42.Less variety in functions.	64
43.Fig.43.Closeness of the building decrease the user participation.	66
44.Fig.44.Sense of entrance given by the level difference.	67
45.Fig.45.Inviting quality given by the openness.	68
46.Fig.46.central space people engage in various activities.	69
47.Fig.47.Visual continuity encourage the user's flow.	72
48, Fig.48.Tree lined Avenue.	73
49.Fig.49.The independence hall as the prominent element.	73
50.Fig.50.Semi fixed elements are not prominent.	74
51.Fig.51.National level celebrations.	75
52.Fig.52.Well defined boundaries and edges.	75
53.Fig.53.Families use it as a gathering space.	75



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



INTRODUCTOIN.

1.0. PREAMBLE.

Considering about exterior civic spaces, it comes up with widely varying images.

Roads filled by traffic, intense experience of human activities, both stimulating and stressful. Buildings used in a way that they are not to be designed for. Clean edged, blank surfaces, poverty and tension, as well as luxury and affluence, industry, offices, shops, apartments and people.

All of these are influenced by its built substances. some of it is good to be in, some causes terrible human problems.

Within this environment, urban dweller faced with a problem of a change environment in which he has to achieve a goal of satisfying a more or less persistent psychological need. This is deep rooted need for belonging. There for it can be assumed that the need for belongingness exist all levels of people.

At the first level, family level, village or urban level and regional level. There for public spaces help to fulfill the deep rooted need for belongingness.

1.1.OBSERVATION.

Most of the contemporary Sri Lankan public spaces, are not fulfilling the user needs. User become 'machines' almost 'robots' with the lack of feeling towards it. As a result user unable to fulfill the deep rooted need for sense of belongingness.

It failed to generate and heightening the emotions and become a part of the life of user. Due to varies other reasons, such as context, regulations, technology,


economy, user requirement and the way of life of the user become less significant.

Therefore the most of the designed spaces are not respond to the actual user, but it is just a physical structure, that is not suitable to the user.

1.2. CRITICALITY.

When Architecture is unable to provide this primary need, it creates various problems within individuals and society. Public spaces isolated both in Socially and Spatially. Social unrest and despondency and their marks upon the built fabric in terms of Graffiti and vandalism. And the buildings and spaces display obvious lack of happy use and care. Living within such conditions, undeniably is social unhealthy, because they create trauma and tension both within individuals and within the society at the same time.

1.3. CAUSES.

 University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.moratuwa.lk
Well designed Public spaces, responding to the way of life of the user, diminish both in quality and quantity. It become an important issue within society. But solution for that situation lies so far due to three reasons.

1. Most of the designs are not aware of the close relationship with the user. Specially a Sociological issue, such as a way of life. The outcome is user may not get the maximum advantage from the design.
2. Most of the designers concern with the physical visual and spatial attributes of the built environment, rather than it's social relevance. Other factors such as context, regulations, technology, economy become more important than sociological reasons such as the way of life of the user.

3. lack of understanding of about the mechanism, to application of sociological theories in Architectural design process, is another reason, which weekend the relationship between design of public spaces and user's way of life.

According to my point of view, awareness of the close relationship between public spaces and way of life is the most important issue to study. So, this study is focused to identify the relationship.

1.4 Remedy.

1.4.1. Intention of the study.

Intention of this study is to establish the co-relation between way of life and public spaces. Way of life is a Sociological term. Measure what extent it co-relate with public spaces. Whether public spaces can completely respond to the way of life of the user, or some extent this response is happen or it is never happen in any situation is, is measure in this study. And from analyzing that establish the relationship between way of life and the public spaces.

1.4.2. Scope and limitation.

When selecting the public spaces, it is limited to Architect designed public spaces. There are varies types of public spaces, which are not designed or designed by non Architects. But those are not taken in to the account.

It is limited to contemporary Sri Lankan public spaces. In designing public spaces, there are varies other facts such as context, climate, technology, economy, regulations etc. those are not considered. Here it is only considered about the user' way of life as a main design issue.

Respond to the user's way of life is only one aspect in social conscious Architecture. There are another ways, respond to the user's nature, mind set, behavior, activity pattern, etc. are not considered.

Hierarchy of the public spaces considered as , neighborhood level, regional level and national level. It used to classify public spaces. But there are other methods to categories, according to the function of public space, commercial, recreation, and transportation. Which is not considered here. Study is not intended to discuss about the mechanism or other forces affect to design such as context, climate, etc. study only focused to way of life.

1.4.3. Method of study.

Social consciousness is defined as one attribute, that Architectural space should have and identify it's importance and relevance in Architecture. Then established Social Consciousness as respond to the user's way of life. Analyze the morphology of the design of a public space which have the attribute of social consciousness, and identify critical features. Critical features which must respond to the way of life of the user. Based on that theories derived from available literature, select public spaces, which are responded well to the user's way of life and which are not responded.

Identify user's way of life, and environmental cues that are set by the 'way of life' . Physical environment set by the way of life is measure using the definitions of Rapoport (1984; 24), environmental cues.

Relationship is measures in three ways.

1. public spaces , which are completely responded to the way of life. It measurers, when public spaces, in it's critical design elements, achieve all the features created by the user's way of life.

2. public space is not responded to the users way of life at all. It measures, when design features in public spaces is completely different to the features created by the users way of life.

3. public spaces are not completely responded to the way of life of the user, but it responded in some extent. Some of the physical features in way of life is reflect in the public spaces, but some are not.

Then identify what kind of design elements mostly can be responded to the way of life.

Examine the end result of 1,2 and 3, and establish how public spaces become successful, well functioning, and sense of belongingness give with it's design features, while responding to the way of life.

The necessary details collect by available literature, non participant observations, and photographs.



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

