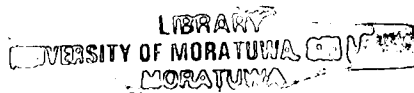


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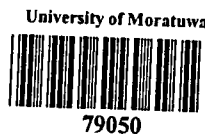


**The Concept of Aesthetics in Architecture:
An Examination of a Parallelism with Painting.**



A dissertation presented to the
Faculty of Architecture of the University of Moratuwa
Sri Lanka for the Final Examination
M.Sc. (Architecture) 2003

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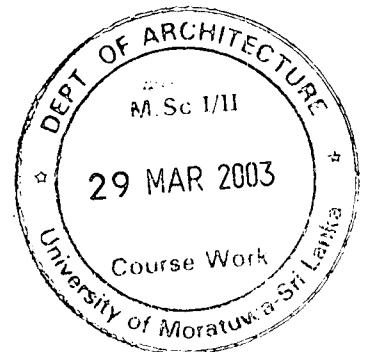


UM Thesis

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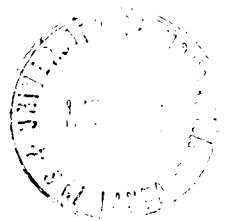
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Introduction

Introduction

1.0 Observation

Architecture; is it an art or science? Architecture can be defined as an art of built environment in a scientific method. Then it is an art more than a science. Because science is involves it as a method of building or arranging the function.

So what is Art?

There are many definitions for an art. Some are defined it as meditation, or finding wisdom or emerging emotions or may be reflection of life. But the most suitable definition may be art is an aesthetic voyage that man travels to find wisdom with inspirations of his life. Then the responsibility of artist is reflecting the life aesthetics and wisdom in his artefact. The life is where artist inspired of his vision for the creation. And the wisdom is universal truth that he understood. Aesthetic is how he communicate his vision and wisdom to the outer world.

The most serious problem be setting of the architecture today is that most architects have forgotten that it as an art. They mainly practice it as a science. They consider only the functional requirements of the building and finally add various decorations to make it beauty. But the real and everlasting beauty comes with the aesthetics with a reflection of life or vision and the wisdom with a meaning which is very hard to see in the present practice.

2.0 Criticality

Why men need art and aesthetics?

Art is the medium that man brings into the upper level of spirituality in the state where he is being. Aesthetic is the doorway through which he enters to that upper spiritual level.

Man as an intelligent and complex animal and needs some spiritual satisfaction to control his mind. If he loses control he will fail in his daily activities and life pattern also. Art can be recognized as one of the methods that creates spirituality in the mind of man and the easiest way to spirituality and the wisdom.

Therefore to maintain spiritual satisfaction in the mind of man he has to continuously live with art. So what is the art which, man appreciating most of the time in his daily activities or living? It is none other than the place or environment he lives. That is architecture.

Therefore if the architecture is not an art and it has no aesthetics, the man living in it will be mentally ill or uncomfortable. Then he will forget his humanity and become a robotic machine who acts without thinking or feeling.

3.0 Causes for above Situation

The cause for the buildings without any aesthetic value seems to be that most of the architects do not know the difference of Beauty, Joy and Aesthetics. They have misunderstanding of these psychological feelings. Beauty varies according the personal thinking and the taste. Joy is non artistic feeling as it can get from other activities such as climbing mountains, driving, or solving mathematic figures. Therefore main task of architecture as an art is emerge aesthetic in its language. There are three reasons for lack of aesthetics in architecture.

- i. Some Architects do not know the concept of Aesthetic
- ii. Some of them do know the concept of Aesthetic, but think it is less importance in architecture than its technological scientific function.
- iii. Some of them know the concept of Aesthetic and its importance as well. But lack of creative imagination.

4.0 Remedies to Solve the above Problem

To solve the above problem it is necessary to convince the architects about the concept of aesthetics and its importance in the field of architecture. They have to be inspired to create their artefacts with aesthetic reference to other arts. Then they will find their own way of mechanism of Aesthetics with the style of their language in architecture.

4.1 Strategy

To understand the value of aesthetics in art, it is necessary to see how it emerges in other forms of art with the language and the medium of that art form. Therefore it is necessary to study and compare the aesthetics of architecture with other art forms

4.2 Intention of Study

The intention of this study is to examine the concept of aesthetic and its value in field of architecture as a visual art especially in its states in creation and appreciation. To find whether it has value in architecture as much as it values in the other arts, studies as a parallelism between architecture and painting as another art form. The parallelism means not exactly alike, but similar manner of operation or in the rhythm of expressing emotional feelings, and the aesthetics.

The aesthetic mainly expressed by the rhythm of the language in its medium of the art form. Every art has its own medium for the expression of its inner meaning. The medium of the music is sound and musicians create rhythmic flow of different sounds in a progression. The medium of the dancing is body movement. The dancers make rhythmic movement of the bodies to create the art form. The medium of painting is line and colours. Painters express their messages through the rhythmic arrangement of line and



colours in their artefacts. Like wise in architecture medium is space. Architects as artists make rhythmic movement or flowing of spaces through his artefacts to give meaning to the building.

The poetic rhythm of every art form is similar in the manner of creation and experiencing too. An artist begins to create his art with the basis of his philosophical and he tries to communicate his message to apprehender in the medium of his art. To do that he makes rhythmic arrangement of language of the medium related to his art form. The apprehender read the message of the artefacts not only with its symbols but also with the poetic rhythm of the language.

The process of artistic experiencing begins with the expression of the artefact. With the expression of rhythmic arrangement of the language of the medium it creates a sequence of emotional feelings in the mind of the apprehender. He understands the message of artist with similar emotional feelings.

Therefore this study is a continuance for the understanding of the manner of operation of the aesthetic expression in the visual medium of painting as another art form and architecture with the poetic rhythm of language and the inner meaning within them.

4.3 Methodology

Both painting and architecture are visual arts. Therefore studies of the visual aesthetics of both arts are based on visual perception of the language in them. The first chapter deals with the concept of aesthetics based on the clarifications and definitions of philosophers and theorists. The second chapter continues with how the concept evolves with the skills in these stages of creations such as form, language and shaping in the field of architecture. The experiencing of the aesthetic in architecture is also studying in the same chapter.

In the third chapter it studies how the aesthetic emerge in the process of creation with the poetic rhythm of the language in architecture. To show the similarity and the value of the aesthetics common for art and architecture, it continues as an analogical study with the aesthetics of poetic rhythms of the visual language in painting.

4.4 Scope of Study

The study is limited to qualitative analysis of aesthetics emerged in the process of creation and experiencing in architecture. It continues to show the value of aesthetic with an analogical study of painting as other form of art.

The purpose of this study is to understand of the aesthetic. It is not going forward to find the mechanism or technology of visual expression of architecture in the creation and experiencing as it is very large complex area. This is studying only the value of aesthetic and its need for architecture as an art. And the parallelism is studying only as a method of proper convincing the aesthetic of art.