

PERSONALIZATION OF THE DWELLING -
A STUDY OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE GENERIC FORM,
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE RE-FORMING OF HOUSES
FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY FLOOD
IN BADDEGAMA, GALLE DISTRICT

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A Dissertation

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University of Moratuwa in partial fulfilment of the

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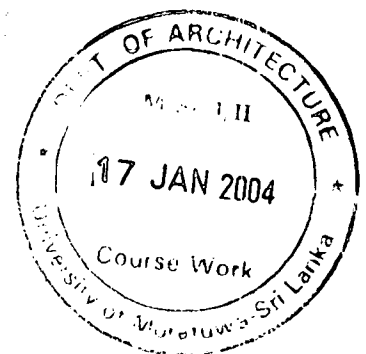
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure No.	Description	Page No.
1	Home as a spatial entity, which gives warmth & comfort	10
2	House as a place where one can listen to his own rhythm by recollecting memories	11
3	Diagrammatic representation of home range, core area, territory and jurisdictions in the way Aborigines used the space	13
4	Early house of an African tribe as a manifestation of mother's womb	14
5	The similarity between the imaginary house drawn by a child using basic geometric forms and a Congolese hut as an inspiration of the origin	15
6	House is organised with primary forms in the image of man in vertical and horizontal directions	17
7	Plot orientation for the exclusive area of the house in Hindu culture	20
8	A dwelling unit with significance of its own colours, textures and materials	21
9	Personalised private domain with architectural details, colours and textures	24
10	Plan of a typical Rendille Tent – Deeper space was reserved for women and children and shallow space for visitors to provide a sense of security	26
11	Verandah space of a street house, personalised by the children as their play area	27
12	Central space was located at geometrical centre of the site, accordance with their myths and beliefs	30
13	Enclosure define a territory of a place	31

14	House acts as the basis for a family organization	33
15	Socio-cultural activities take at the riverbank in Varanasi, India	34
16	Social class define socio-economic hierarchy with respect to occupation	36
17	Attachment to places in the day-to-day life of people	37
18	City of Kandy with it's unique identity	39
19	Unique architectural character of the Igloo house, as a reflection of its generic form	43
20	Unique architectural character of the Aborigine house – With variations of its generic form	44
21	Plan & section of a traditional rural house with front verandah or "pila" and the centre post	46
22	Additions done to the house and its generic idea to suit day to day socio-spatial relationships	46
23	Traditional house with "Vee Bissa" as an additional feature to the generic idea	47
24	Disastrous condition of the recent flooding in Kiriweldola, Deniyaya	49
25	Flooding, as a common natural disaster in Sri Lanka	52
26	War – The most disastrous & terrified man-made disaster on earth	53
27	A completely ruined house due to the recent flood in Baddegama area	54
28	Perished materials of a school child, which is drying out on a cadjan leaf	54
29	Displaced children who had lost their social bonds with families	55
30	A mentally retarded child who has lost his attachments due to war	56
31	People who had lost their possession to land after the war in Afghanistan	58

32	Refugees of war, who have lost their homes	59
33	'In a crumbling world" - Disaster as an event of psychological displacement	60
34	Placelessness/ homelessness created by war	63
35	Critical need to restore the shattered on-going process of human habitation & act of dwelling through a meaningful re-construction process	65
36	Relationship of the internal spaces with the external environment - An African tribal village house	68
37	Social relationships in a neighbourhood of an African tribal village	69
38	A house that reflects the personal identity of the inhabitants through it's front facade	70
39	3 dimensional views and sections that describes the architectural pattern of Baddegama	89
40	Heavily damaged house of H.S.B. Wijethilake at Udahapola, Ginimallagaha wa, Sri Lanka.	96
41	Plan & elevation of the pre-disaster house of H.S.B.Wijethilake	98
42	Plan, section & elevation of the generic form option selected by H.S.B. Wijethilake	101
43	Plan & section of the house personalized through the architect's intervention	103
44	Plan & elevation of the post-disaster house of H.S.B.Wijethilake	105
45	Personalized house of H.S.B. Wijethilake after occupying	106
46	Seriously damaged pre-disaster house of T.B. Gunadasa at Kihimbi Ela	108
47	Plan & elevation of the pre-disaster house of T.B. Gunadasa	110

48	Traditional window type that gave a rich character to the house	111
49	Plan, section & elevation of the generic form option selected by T.B. Gunadasa	113
50	Plan of the house personalized through the direct consultation with the architect	114
51	Final plan of the post-disaster house of T.B. Gunadasa	115
52	External view of constructed completed house of T.B. Gunadasa	116
53	Internal view of the living area towards the enclosed verandah	116
54	Plan & elevation of the pre-disaster house of I.N. Guruge	119
55	Plan, section & elevation of the generic form option selected by I.N. Guruge	121
56	Plan & section of the house personalized through the direct consultation with the architect	122
57	Final plan of the post-disaster house of I.N. Guruge	123
58	Incomplete exterior view of the house of I.N. Guruge	124



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LIST OF CONTENTS

PERSONALIZATION OF THE DWELLING

A STUDY OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE GENERIC FORM, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE RE-FORMING OF HOUSES FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY FLOOD IN BADDEGAMA, GALLE DISTRICT

LIST OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	I
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	III
PREAMBLE	VII
DECLARATION	IX
INTRODUCTION	01
➤ The Study Premise	01
➤ The Importance of the Study	03
➤ Intention of the Study	05
➤ Method of the Study	07
➤ Scope and Limitations	08
CHAPTER ONE: ACT OF DWELLING – A HOLISTIC VIEW	10
1.1 Dwelling/ Home – A Definition	10
1.1.1 A Historical Overview	13
1.1.1.1 Birth of the House	14
1.1.1.2 Roots of the House	15
1.1.1.3 Universal Language of the House	16



1.1.2	Attributes of Act of Dwelling	18
1.1.2.1	Psychological Attributes	18
1.1.2.1.a	Orientation	19
1.1.2.1.b	Identity	20
1.1.2.1.c	Territoriality	22
1.1.2.1.d	Privacy	23
1.1.2.1.e	Personalization	24
1.1.2.1.f	Security	25
1.1.2.1.g	Sense of belongingness	27
1.1.2.2	Physical Attributes	28
1.1.2.2.a	Centre	28
1.1.2.2.b	Enclosure	30
1.1.2.2.c	Continuity	32
1.1.2.3	Socio-cultural Attributes	32
1.1.2.3.a	Social-grouping / Organizations	33
1.1.2.3.b	Socio-cultural Activities	34
1.1.2.3.c	Behaviour Patterns	35
1.1.3	Home - Attachment to Place	36
1.2	Identity of a Place	37
1.2.1	Place/ Location – A Definition	37
1.2.2	Location Specific Identity	39
1.2.3	Location Specific Architecture	40
1.2.4	Identification of a Generic Form	41
1.2.4.1	Eskimo - Igloo House	42
1.2.4.2	Australian Aboriginal Dwelling	43
1.2.4.3	Sri Lankan Traditional House	44
1.3	Concluding Remarks	47

CHAPTER FOUR: CASE STUDY	76
4.1 Basis for the selection of Case Studies	76
4.2 The Process of conducting Case Studies	77
4.3 Case Study – The Generic Form Solution to Housing, in the Re-construction Process for Internally Displaced Communities affected by Flood in Baddegama, Galle District	80
4.3.1 Problem Analysis	80
4.3.2 Situation Specific Generic Form for Flooding	82
4.3.3 Transformation to a Location Specific Generic Form for Baddegama Area	86
4.3.3.1 Identity of Baddegama	86
4.3.3.2 Architecture of Baddegama	86
4.3.3.3 Identification of a Generic Form for Baddegama	90
4.3.4 Transformation of the Location Specific Generic Form & the Level of Personalization	92
4.3.4.1 Possible Options	92
4.3.4.2 Designs of Individual Housing Units - Pre-disaster & Post-disaster Situations	96
4.3.4.2.a House of H.S.B. Wijethilake	96
4.3.4.2.b House of T.B. Gunadasa	107
4.3.4.2.c House of I.N. Guruge	118
CONCLUSION	125
APPENDICES	131
LIST OF REFERENCES	133



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PREAMBLE

PREAMBLE

Over many thousands of years, human societies have tackled the basic problem of providing shelter in a wide variety of ways, adapting to the natural environment and making use of the materials it provides for the construction (or adaptation) of sheltered space. The most basic motive for building has been to provide shelter for a defined Kinship group, often within a clearly marked, protected area.

The shelter always had two purposes. That is qualitative aspect and the quantitative aspects. Privacy, Identity,^o Territoriality and Sense of belongingness are considered as some of those qualitative aspects of a shelter. The meaning of shelter varies from, the single housing unit to a settlement which is the manifestation of self to community level.

As a result of social hierarchies, cultural beliefs, and economic and political aspirations, such communities being segregated and that has resulted in so many settlement patterns within one community itself. The settlement patterns exist, as a result of **socio-spatial** organizations which co-existed within a society, and to establish one's reaction to a **specific place**, which one refers to. When someone become place or location specific, he has to be in a two-way conversation with the particular place, in order to make his roots to that place.

Human, place relationships carry **opportunities** as well as **threats** to its inhabitants, which some may be avoidable or unavoidable. Opportunities, no doubt, may result for the upliftment of a society. But threats would come in the guise of natural and man-made disasters, which cause numerous harm to the society.

Most instances "**displacement**" being the ultimate result of a disaster, it uproots people from their original places, with severe physical, social and

psychological losses, which may reflect throughout many generations. This losses, the very communal base of a society and make them placeless. Even though, these threats does occur changes, long term or short term, in the society, but the society has to exist some how, somewhere in the world. Also life has to be continued. To keep this process in motion people **“re-built”** and **“re-place”** themselves either in the same locality or in a nearby area. By doing so, people generally **“re-align”** themselves for the continuous process of place making.

Nevertheless, the act of dwelling may happen, based on social, cultural, political and economical aspects, in varying degrees. To understand these varying aspects, one has to have a deeper understanding and experience regarding certain characteristics of a particular society.

This study thus, unravels the spatial experiences of the individuals and in communal level, in their re-making or re-forming of places, after being suddenly displaced by different disaster situations.



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DECLARATION

DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation represents my own work, except where due acknowledgement is made, and that it has not been previously included in a thesis, dissertation or report submitted to this university or to any other institution for a degree, diploma or other qualification.

Signed: ***UOM Verified Signature***
A.R.Karunasinghe ✓