

**THE PERCEPTION OF SELF: AN EXAMINATION OF ENCODING SELF-CUES
INTO ARCHITECTURE AND ITS MANIFESTATION.**

A Dissertation

Submitted to the Department of Architecture of the
University of Moratuwa in partial fulfillment of the
Requirements for the degree of

Master of Science



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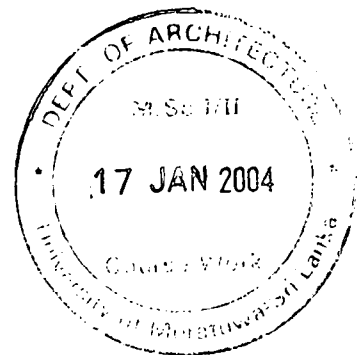


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By

D.D.C.Pasquel

January, 2004



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Then a mason came forth and said, *Speak to us of Houses.*

And he answered and said:

Build of your imaginings a bower in the wilderness ere you build a house within the city walls. For even as you have homecomings in your twilight, so has the wanderer in you, the ever distant and alone.

Your house is your larger body.

It grows in the sun and sleeps in the stillness of the night; and it is not dreamless. Does not your house dream? And dreaming, leave the city for grove or hilltop?

Would that I could gather your houses into my hand, and like a sower scatters them in forest and meadow. Would the valleys were your streets, and the green paths your alleys, that you might seek one another through vineyards, and come with the fragrance of the earth in your garment.

But these things are not yet to be.

In their fear your forefathers gathered you too near together. And that fear shall endure a little longer. A little longer shall your city walls separate your hearths from your fields?

And tell me, people of Orphalese, what have you in these houses? And what is it you guard with fastened doors? Have you peace, the quiet urge that reveals your power? Have you remembrances, the glimmering arches that span the summits of the mind? Have you beauty that leads the heart from things fashioned of wood and stone to the holy mountain?

Tell me, have you these in your houses? Or have you only comfort, and the lust for comfort, that stealthy thing that enters the house a guest, and then becomes a host, and then a master?

Ay, and it becomes a tamer, and with hook and scourge makes puppets of your larger desires. Though its hands are silken, its heart is of iron. It lulls you to sleep only to stand by your bed and jeer at the dignity of the flesh. It makes mock of your sound senses, and lays them in the thistledown like fragile vessels. Verily the lust for comfort murders the passion of the soul, and then walks grinning in the funeral.

But you, children of space, you restless in rest, you shall not be trapped nor tamed.

Your house shall be not an anchor but a mast.

It shall not be a glistening film that covers a wound, but an eyelid that guards the eye.

You shall not fold your wings that you may pass through doors, nor bend your heads that they strike not against a ceiling, nor fear to breathe lest walls should crack and fall down.

You shall not dwell in tombs made by the dead for the living. And though of magnificence and splendor, your house shall not hold your secret nor shelter your longing. For that which is boundless in you abide in the mansion of the sky, whose door is the morning mist, and whose windows are the songs and the silences of night.

"The Prophet" - Kahlil Gibran.

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.



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**THE PERCEPTION OF SELF: An examination of encoding, self-cues into
Architecture and its manifestation.**

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ABSTRACT

Each space manifests an **engraved** story. It speaks in silence. No one can hear but felt through the expressions that it springs out. When the space begins to speak in its utmost ability, and the observer who **enlighten by the dialogue**, the space becomes humane. Where the man becomes a part of it, it enwraps it's being, and becomes **the glamorous corner of the world: "the home"**.

The home is not a mere built entity; it has the ability to be the **share of the shared space in the world** of the person who dwells. The home becomes the image, **the mirror image** of the dweller, it hides the secrets of him, and it elaborates his being among the fellowmen. It enshrines his living and becomes the perfection of 'self' by being the profound center in the world of him.

Hence the creation of home is something, which **fuse emotions into being** and make a continuous dialogue between the dweller and the spatial entities. Creating a self-expressive domain it complicated. A home is thus not a dream of the creator, but **the insight he obtained into the collective dream of the family** who tend to dwell in. Then the home becomes specific to that family who beholds. It has a specific aura of that family. The family personality pervades the dwelling, **the psycho-socio profile** of each individual as the 'self' is originated from the social realm, and the inner expressions of the dweller becomes the key factor of the ultimate creation, the collective glimpse of the fine tapestry of the man and his family.

PREFACE

Architecture is undoubtedly the most **sublime and the most profound** of all art forms, created through human intervention. It shelters the body, it **enshrines his being**. It is the shrine in which **humanity and divinity find oneness**. It is music – a frozen music, **a silent art, in this silence it speaks**. It makes others speak and it makes others silent in silence, one can feel the rhythm of one's own heart pounding through this spatial art and it create relationships between the profound space and the human existence. Where in that sense architecture is defined as, “**architecture is all about relationships, socio spatial relation ships.**”



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Hence it contains 'space' and the social aspect of 'the living being'. A cohesive bound between the **conscious and unconscious**. The human intervention makes the architecture **live and expressing**, where it becomes its **utmost pinnacle** when the architecture becomes '**self's**'. i.e. the expression of self the perfection of self, makes the space pounding and breathing. It gives space identity, ownership, and essence of the human traits. Where in that sense, architecture happens to investigate the human psychology and inner thoughts to make the space to become 'self' and the expression of 'self-cues'.