

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL URBAN DESIGN CONFERENCE | ICCPP-2018

Cities  
People  
Places

ICCP-2018  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

# SIXTH INTERNATIONAL URBAN DESIGN CONFERENCE ICCP-2018

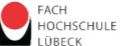
Cities  
People  
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Main Organizer



Department of Architecture  
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka



Centre for Cities  
'Centre for Cities'  
University of Moratuwa

ISSN : ISSN 2345-9530



Bar Code : 9 772345 953006

Cities, People and Places

## Cities, People and Places 'Socializing Cities' Creating people-centered streets and places

Oct 05<sup>th</sup> - 06<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Colombo - Sri Lanka

## Proceedings



Department of Architecture  
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka



Centre for Cities  
'Centre for Cities'  
University of Moratuwa

# **PROCEEDINGS**

Sixth International Urban Design Conference on  
**Cities, People and Places**  
**ICCPP- 2018**  
Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Theme:**

**Socializing Cities:  
Creating People-centered Streets and Places**

**Edited by:**  
**Janaka Wijesundara**  
**Ranjith Dayaratne**

**Department of Architecture**  
**University of Moratuwa**  
**Sri Lanka**



Editors: Janaka Wijesundara and Ranjith Dayaratne

ISSN: 2345-9530

Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Tel : +94 11 2 651 047

Fax : +94 11 2 651 047

Email : [iccpp@uom.lk](mailto:iccpp@uom.lk)

Web : [www.iccpp.lk](http://www.iccpp.lk)

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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This year the ICCPP conference is taken place for the 6<sup>th</sup> time, and we are focusing about socializing cities that is about people's presence in cities. This is considered as an extremely important area in terms of today's urban environments, ranging from small towns to so called Mega cities, to explore how the communities and city users become the key stake holder in creating of city building. There is no doubt that this conference will throw light on some of the critical aspects of people centered streets and places and their roles while looking into the case studies and research projects also in other countries.

As usual, the conference papers have been thoroughly evaluated and reviewed by an international review panel, who have gone through the papers twice over: first by examining the abstracts and then the full papers. We are grateful to the distinguished academics on the Review Panel, who have enormously contributed by reviewing the papers and commented upon each aspect of them to bring them to a level of excellence.

Among the local conference organizers we wish to note the support given by the Department of Architecture at the University of Moratuwa together with their supportive staff and the members of the Research 'Centre for Cities' in Moratuwa University. The papers presented at the conference provide much needed intellectual inputs in the progression of ideas that will fashion the planning and development of contemporary and future Cities. University of Moratuwa has been always fully supportive of this event and their great contribution cannot be measured and acknowledged sufficiently. Without this institutional support, also mainly from other institutions such as, University Grant Commission, Ministry of Education and also the other sponsors, ICCPP would have not existed for a period of 6 years.

The paper presenters have been tremendously understanding, and willing and rigorous in their responses to the many comments and criticisms of the original papers and research that, upon refinement have reached very high standards. They owe our great admiration of their pursuits and the desire to participate and excel. That is indeed our biggest strength which ensures that the ICCPP continues and flourishes as a meaningful and intellectually rich endeavour in the academic calendars of Sri Lanka.

Thank you for all for your great support.

Janaka Wijesundara and Ranjith Dayaratne



## FOREWORD

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Many in the world today dream of genuine communities and of architectural environments that help achieve that dream. Often, they associate such dreams with places encountered in childhood and with cities and townscapes that had existed in the past. Heidegger dreamt of his native Meßkirch. Many have experienced the special aura of built environments comprised of a '*genius loci*' and a sense of community.

One question this conference raises is how the work of architects may contribute to creating such cities. There is a suggestion that the architect or the urban designer, as a second God, should strive to create another world; a world constituted of a self-justifying whole. Translated into urban terms, this suggests two things. First, a city or a part of a city as a place presided over by some dominating building, most often, a temple, a church or a national monument, whose place as the leading building task may have a clearly identifiable center. In the historic cities such as Acropolis, a medieval cathedral would have created this place. Second, this suggests the presence of a vibrant social space – most likely a street or a conglomeration of streets and public spaces where people gather, celebrate and live. Here would be a place where the sense and the self-perception of the community as an ideal community was actually forged. Absence of such a forging of community in the modern cities invites questioning. It demands that we respond to a widely lamented sense of a loss of community in the contemporary cities.

There are of course no ideal cities. Urban environments that come close to deserving the description as "architecturally and artistically perfect unified environments" are not necessarily cities that we would like to live in: their very aesthetic perfection tends to make them stifling. Patrick Geddes, for whom a city was a disciplined geographical entity suggested that a city must have a metaphysical center, which not only expresses a set of ideas dominating an ideal city, but, and far more importantly, initiates the realization of these ideas. Potentially, the metaphysical center can guarantee the community's perfect character before, above and beyond any environmental improvement. Such a metaphysical center was said to safeguard "the ideal character of the ideal city" by addressing "the souls of city and inhabitants" — not mere material considerations. Lethaby invites us to reflect on the power of architecture to form a civilization. A civilized life is said to require a disciplined town.

ICCPP-2018 ventured on this endeavor of reflecting on how the present day architects understand and devise ways and means of transforming our rather chaotic, unplanned, spontaneous, yet ruthlessly controlled cities to be more socially meaningful, vibrant and wholesome. There are both very promising scenarios as well as frustrating developments beyond control. However, the variety of papers presented and published in this proceedings offer us hope that from the physical to metaphysical centers and articulations of nuanced characteristics of the urban landscapes, the urban designers, architects and landscape architects are indeed boldly making efforts to create them across the world.

Socializing cities is no easy task. While the architects and urban designers may lay the geographical ground work, it is the people themselves that should react appropriately to these gestures. Understanding those communities, both individuals and groups and their dynamics has been embedded in many of the research and we thank all those who have taken the arduous task of researching these complex phenomena and developing the papers to a high standard to share their meanings and ideas. We believe that the exchange of the ideas facilitated at the conference as well as dissemination of knowledge through this proceedings will pave the way for greater socializing in the cities.

Janaka Wijesundara and Ranjith Dayaratne



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