

**Character Study on the Context Responsive Design
Strategies of Hill Towns with Special Reference to Town
of Haputale Sri Lanka**

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K. SUGIRTHAN

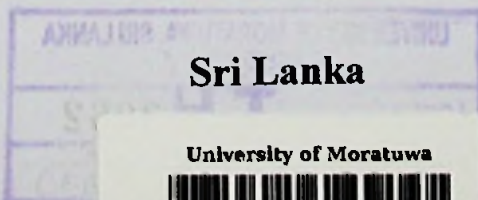
139409L

Research Project Report
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Master of Urban Design

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Department of Architecture

University of Moratuwa



University of Moratuwa



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DECLARATION

I declare that this research project report 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 the University of Moratuwa or to any other institution for a degree, diploma or other qualification. I wish to also declare that the total number of words in the body of this report (Excluding the Tables, Appendices, List of References and the Bibliography) is less than 10 000.

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Signature: *UOM Verified Signature*

Date : 10th of September 2015

Name of the Student: K.Sugirthan

Registration Number: 139409L

Group: 2013/2014

The above candidate has carried out research for the Master Dissertation under my supervision.

Signature of the Supervisor: *UOM Verified Signature*



MASTERS PROGRAM OF URBAN DESIGN

Program Director Dr. Janaka Wijesundara

FIA (SL), MITP (SL), MCIP (Canada)

Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

ABSTRACT

Hill country towns of Sri Lanka have unique character on the nature of landscape, pattern of development, urban form and its shape. Due to the nature of hilly landscape; Net buildable or usable area for urban growth and functions are limited. Form and character of a hilly country is highly influenced or shaped by the landscape. It is vital for Sri Lankan hill towns that the natural landscape is the strongest standing force preserve and expresses their uniqueness.

Most of the urban design principles and approaches deals with the urban context based on 2D plane built vertically into a 3D space. But hill towns are formed in 3D landscape. There is a need to study the form, function, and character of hill towns and their relationship within the force of undulated landscape. It raises the question that how such environment both built and natural can cooperate to preserve and harness the rich nature while providing the opportunity to urban functions.

Sri Lankan hill towns are livable and enjoyable due to the climate, rich natural vistas and landscape, water, sun shine, and breeze on elevate. Scenic Haputale town located around 1430m elevation is examined in this study. This town has several issues due to its undulated terrain. Accessibility is limited due to the level changes by the form of contour. The town has curvy linear growth of dense built form and urban growth along main road and junctions due to commercial activities. Absence of regulation or urban development guideline is another important limitation to drive better urban form.

In the form of hill towns; the natural landscape plays the role of shaping the physical environment. Overall city shape, form, and assembly of the city elements and their physical properties are examined on human scale within the framework of hilly landscape.

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