LB/DON/104/06
422

COMMUNITY SPACES AND COMMUNITY SENSE
A STUDY OF THE USE OF INFORMAL COMMUNITY SPACES IN SELECTED SRI LANKAN UNIVERSITIES

The Dissertation Presented to the Department of Architecture,
University of Moratuwa,
Sri Lanka
For the Final Examination in M.Sc. (Architecture)
And RIBA Part II Examination

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA, SRI LANKA
MORATUWA
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

72"05"
72(043)

85497

H.A.C.Dinesh
March 2005

University of Moratuwa
85497

DEPT OF ARCHITECTURE
M.Sc I/II
19 MAR 2005
Course Work
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

85497

DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation represent 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 to any other institution for degree diploma or other qualification.

UOM Verified Signature

.....

H.A.C. DINESH

(Signature)

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This gratitude of mine is given to Pro. Nimal De Silva, the Dean Faculty of Architecture, Senior Lecturer Archt. Vidura Sri Nammuni the Head of Architecture Department. Further it is extended to the year master of year 5 Archt. Jayanath Silva, Archt. Damith Silva and Archt. Gamini Weerasinghe.

My deepest gratefulness is offered to my supervisor, Lecturer Archt. Prasanna kulathilake for his words of caution, encouragement in times of despair, his incisive comments, patience and inspiration given to me.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to Archt. Chris De Saram and Archt. Vasantha De Silva for unreserved help for the study.

My grateful thanks to Prof. Tenison perera, University of Sri Jayawardanapura Dr. Hemamaleee Fernando and Senior Prof. Sunil Ariyaratne for helping me in Strengthening the dissertation with necessary information.

The students of the University of Moratuwa, the University of Ruhuna and the university of Sri Jayawardanepura for the grate help given to me for completion the study.

Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

My grateful thanks to Prof. Tenison Perera, University of Jayawardanapura & Dr. Hemamalee Fernando, for helping me in strengthening the essay with necessary information.

I offer hart heartfelt thanks to my colleagues, Rasika Madurapperuma, Chamikara Moses and Dayantha for their valuable support to render in completing this task.

To Nalika praise evenly for being with me in all despair encouraging me to the utmost. To the support of her parents, specially her father Mr. J. Balachandra the Senior Assistant Registrar of the University of Moratuwa, I would extend my deepest acknowledgement.

Last but not least my greatest gratitude is given to my father, mother and my family members who supports me all ways in every struggle.

COMMUNITY SPACES AND COMMUNITY SENSE
A STUDY OF THE USE OF INFORMAL COMMUNITY SPACES IN SELECTED SRI LANKAN UNIVERSITIES

CONTENTS PAGE NO

Declaration i
Acknowledgement ii
List of illustrations iii
Abstract vii
INTRODUCTION ix

- Observation
- Criticality
- Reason for the choice
- Topic explanation
- Need of the study
- Intention of the study
- Scope and limitation of the study
- Method of study

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

CHAPTER ONE :
COMMUNAL LIFE AND COMMUNITY SENSE

1.1 Communal life establishing a communal quality 1
1.2 Forces shaping communal life 2
1.2.1 Social forces 2
1.2.1.1 Socio-cultural forces 2
1.2.1.2 Socio-political and socio-economic forces 3
1.2.2 Physical forces 4
1.2.2.1 Climate 4
1.2.2.2 Location 5
1.2.2.3 Technology and materials 5
1.3 Qualities of the communal life 6
1.3.1 Development of personality 6
1.3.2 Development of trust 8
1.3.3 Natural protection 9

1.4 Social factors of the communal life 9
1.4.1 Sense of privacy 10
1.4.2 Sense of territoriality 11
1.4.3 Sense of intimacy 11
1.4.4 Sense of belongingness 12
1.4.5 Community sense 13
1.5 Community sense as a major factor of the communal life 13
1.6 Concluding remarks 14

CHAPTER TWO:
IMAGE OF THE INFORMAL COMMUNITY SPACES IN THE UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT

2.1 Concept of space and Architectural space 15
2.2 The University as an Architectural space 16
2.2.1 Social organization 17
2.2.1.1 University education system 19
2.2.1.2 University student community 20
2.2.1.3 Communal life within the University 22
a) In terms of education 24
b) In terms of social activity 25
2.2.2 Spatial organization 27
a) Centralized Organization 28
b) Linear Organization 29
c) Radial Organization 30
d) Clustered Organization 30
e) Grid Organization 31
2.2.3 Spatial Domains 31
a) Private Domain 32
b) Public Domain 32
2.3 Community spaces in the University environment 33
2.3.1 Formal community spaces 34
2.3.2 Informal community spaces 34
2.4 Informal community spaces within the University environment 34
2.5 Concluding remarks 35

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

CHAPTER THREE:
CONTRIBUTION OF INFORMAL COMMUNITY SPACES TO DERIVE COMMUNITY SENSE IN UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Use of informal community spaces in university environment 37
3.1.1 To develop trust 37
3.1.2 For natural protection 39
3.1.3 Develop personality 40
3.2 Importance of community sense in informal community spaces 42
3.2.1 To protect the public realm in the environment 43
3.2.2 Enhancing the quality of the environment to learn 43
3.3 Social need of deriving community sense in informal community spaces 44
3.3.1 Comfort and relaxation 45
3.3.2 Active and passive engagement 46
3.3.3 Discovery 47
3.4 Mechanisms of enhancing the social interactions 48
3.4.1 Connection with the space and individual 48
3.4.1.1 Visual connection 49
3.4.1.2 Physical connection 50
3.4.2 Attraction to the space 51
3.4.2.1 Facilitating responsive needs of user 51
3.4.2.2 Creating meaningful connection 52
3.5 Spatial qualities enhancing the social interactions 53
3.5.1. Scale and Proportion 53
3.5.2 Texture and Colour 54
3.5.3 Light and Shade 55
3.5.4 Architectural elements 56
3.6 Concluding remarks 57

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

CHAPTER FOUR:
CASE STUDIES

4.1 CASE STUDY ONE - UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA

4.1.1 Location 58
4.1.2 Background information 59
4.1.3 Identified community spaces and their usage 60
4.1.4 The way of achieving sense of community in identified spaces 64
4.1.4.1 Social needs of deriving community sense in informal community spaces 70
a) Comfort and Relaxation 70
b) Active and Passive engagement with the space 71
c) Discovery 72
4.1.4.2 Mechanism of enhancing the social interactions 73
4.1.4.3 Spatial quality enhancing the social interactions 74

4.2 CASE STUDY TWO - UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA

4.2.1 Location 76
4.2.2 Background information 77
4.2.3 Identified community spaces and their usage 78
4.2.4 The way of achieving sense of community in identified spaces 81
4.2.4.1 Social needs of deriving community sense in informal community spaces 87
a) Comfort and Relaxation 87
b) Active and Passive engagement 88
c) Discovery 90
4.2.4.2 Mechanism of enhancing the social interactions 91
4.2.4.3 Spatial quality enhancing the social interactions 92
4.3 Concluding remarks of the case studies 93

CONCLUSION 96

BIBLIOGRAPHY

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

List of Figures — Page No:

Fig 1.1: 'Kamatha' developing Strong communal quality 01

Fig 1.2: Communal activity differs with the community 01

Fig 1.3: Communal Activity makes the communal quality 02

Fig 1.4: Cultural beliefs of the community 02

Fig 1.5: Temple of Tooth achieving strong socio-cultural Image 03

Fig 1.6: Economic forces creating different communities 03

Fig 1.7: Community life shaping due to the climate 04

Fig 1.8: Working with the rice field 06

Fig 1.9: Developing Individuals' personality 06

Fig 1.10: The Religion depicting the trust of the believers 08

Fig 1.11: Sense of privacy helps to develop personality 10

Fig 1.12: Territoriality as an individual concept 11

Fig 1.13: Intimacy creates strong relationships 11

Fig 1.14: A strong relationship between a mother and a child 12

Fig 1.15: Common activities derive community sense 13

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Fig 2.1: Manipulating the Architectural space 15

Fig 2.2: Corridor at Economics Department-University of Ruhuna 16

Fig 2.3: Students' social activities within the University 17

Fig 2.4: A scribble of Arts, University of Peradeniya 18

Fig 2.5: A group of students at University of Peradeniya 20

Fig 2.6: Students participate in common activities. 22

Fig 2.7: A scribble showing how the students suffer after closing the university 22

Fig 2.8: A scribble showing students' emotions gym, University of Ruhuna 25

Fig 2.9: A drama played in students' night, University of 26

Fig 2.10: A couple of young lovers enjoying their world 26

Fig 2.11: Students protest for their rights 26

Fig 2.12: Conflict between society and university sub culture 26

Fig 2.13: Centralized Organization 28

Fig 2.14: Sumanadasa Building, University of Moratuwa 28

Fig 2.15: Linear Organization pattern 29

Fig 2.16: Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Moratuwa 39

Fig 2.17: Radial Organization 30

Fig 2.18: Clustered Organization 30

Fig 2.19: Grid Organization 31

Fig 2.20: Urban Centre 31

Fig 2.21: Buildings creating Enclosure for either side 32

Fig 2.22: Linear continuation 32

Fig 2.23: House - Private realm in the space 32

Fig 2.24: Public realm in the space 33

Fig 2.25: Common room –University of Ruhuna 34

Fig 2.26:Nature acts as an informal community space 34

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Fig 3.1: Using a informal space for gathering 37

Fig 3.2: Developing trust among students by activities like protests 38

Fig 3.3: Natural protection for Young lovers 39

Fig 3.4: Developing Individual personalities through the social events 40

Fig 3.5: Public realm in the informal community space 43

Fig 3.6: Natural environment acts as a learning space 44

Fig 3.7: Use a common space for relaxation 45

Fig 3.8: Active engagement in the space 46

Fig 3.9: Passive engagement in the space 46

Fig 3.10: Man – Space relationship 48

Fig 3.11: A vista creating a strong visual connection 49

Fig 3.12: The corridor, clear physical connection between spaces 50

Fig 3.13: Canteen – University of Moratuwa 51

Fig 3.14: Group of students studying in common room University of Ruhuna 52

Fig 3.15:Greate proportion – Pantheon 53

Fig 3.16:Mixing with different textures – A pathway, University of Peradeniya 54

Fig 3.17:Colour composition makes a different spatial quality 54

Fig 3.18:Spatial quality changes with the Light & shade 55

Fig 3.19:Collenaded leads the pathway 56

Fig 4.1.1: Layout plan of University of Moratuwa 58

Fig 4.1.2: Pathway leading to the Textile Department 60

Fig 4.1.3: Main corridor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering 60

Fig 4.1.4: Entrance lobby of the University, 61

Fig 4.1.5: Lobby – Department of Architectural 61

Fig 4.1.6: Central Court yard –Sumanadasa Building 62

Fig 4.1.7: Open gathering space near the Budu Medura 62

Fig 4.1.8: Boat yard - A strong gathering space 63

Fig 4.1.9: Entrance lobby of the University

Fig 4.1.10 Activities extend beyond the Union room 63

Fig 4.1.11 Lobby of the Sumanada building 64

Fig 4.1.12: "Bus" at ground level of the Sumanada building 66

Fig 4.1.13 Open corridor In Mechanical Engineering Department 68

Fig 4.1.14: Built in seat in the path leading to the lecture block 69

Fig 4.2.1:University of Ruhuna 76

Fig 4.2.2: Layout plan of University of Ruhuna 76

Fig 4.2.3: A path way at Faculty of Science 78

Fig 4.2.4: A walkway using as a gathering space 79

Fig 4.2.5: The lobby between Administration & Library 79

Fig 4.2.6: The lobby at Ground level Auditorium 79

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Fig 4.2.7: The Lake enhances the open ness of the space 80

Fig 4.2.8: Open terrace called "Sandaluthalaya" 80

Fig 4.2.9: The student centre 80

Fig 4.2.10: The canteen 80

Fig 4.2.11: The Lobby connecting Administration & Library 82

Fig 4.2.12: Upper area in geographical and economic department 83

Fig 4.2.13: Corridor in auditorium building 84

Fig 4.2.14: "Puja Bumiya" 85

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

ABSTRACT

Strong societies or the countries represent more community sense within the communities who live in the nation. These countries or societies are created with collection of communities. Hence to retain it as a body or one nation is must have a community sense. In a way this will help to reduce the negative feelings of the individual humans like social phobia, anomie situations, stresses. Hence it represent a balanced healthy nation altogether. Therefore it helps them to retain a sensible appreciation of creations rather than torturing it by, graffiti or vandalism. On the other hand the historical and rational values, which have in the nation, will presume as it is.

Communities within a country can be categorized according to race, religion, occupation, education, and topographical situations. Out of these number of situations, universities, which highlight the education system encompasses another significant community. This study focuses on the community and takes in to subject, because within the university it has a sub culture, which nourishes the main cultural values.

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

When creating or achieving the community sense, the environment where the individual reside helps to a great extent. The environment consists both natural and physical. It orientates the man and create meaningful interactions with them as well as with it, to derive the community sense. In the University environment this is needed more because it's main purpose is to create a Universal man. The spaces arranged, streets or parks landscaped with the required facilities achieved this with the help of student interactions. These environments enhance the interactions between students, lectures, workers and publics. Therefore University environment not only contain its premises but also spreads psychologically in to the whole area. Sometimes the village name denotes the university. Such an example will be the university of Peradeniya.

But today due to the scarcity of land and the haphazard development in the built environment of the Universities makes it difficult to develop the community sense among its inhabitants. Hence the interactions among each group, which identified above are weakened. Clashes, killing happen among the students environment is questioned seriously. Therefore built environment in Universities have significantly

lost the ability of creating a community sense, which is an important aspect in positive feelings.

In the university the common space has more value. Because it is the main area where each group interact and communicate there ideas. This has to be carefully done and as this helps to generate the university environment psychologically. Hence this will be a prime opportunity space to derive the community sense. Each of the university has its own designed formal common spaces as well as informal common spaces. Out of the common spaces it is virtual to study about informal common spaces as because the groups according to their functions create them. Hence to identify the likes, dislikes and intention of the group and the group attachment to the space can be identified through this. On the other hand it will make easy to derive community sense in the space more and more. Ultimately the study helps to create the university built environment more meaningful and aesthetically pleasing with enhancing the social interactions among the group.

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk