

**WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR  
EFFECT ON URBAN SENSE OF PLACE:  
A CASE STUDY OF NEGOMBO.**

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the  
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## DECLARATION

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## ABSTRACT

Waterbodies have arguably been more than simply a valuable resource for Sri Lanka and its inhabitants; they are also a significant aspect of the country's culture. A majority of the waterbodies are connected to cities or flow directly through them, and they have an impact on these cityscapes by influencing the quality of their views. With the passage of time and the extent of their development, waterfronts are frequently altered, resulting in an indirect impact on the place's identity. Many of these waterfronts have poor water quality and have not been properly integrated in terms of their recreational value and historical significance. Between individuals and places, emotional and functional factors generate meaning, resulting in a sense of place. Physical changes may transform the meaning of an area and erode this area's sense of place over time. This study aims to evaluate the affects sense-of-place and its components have on a user's perception in the setting of open spaces of Negombo's waterfronts. The goals of this study are to find physical markers, indications of functional connection, and measures of emotional attachment in order to see if deteriorating waterfronts have a detrimental impact on the public's perception of sense-of-place in Negombo. The study's findings reveal a number of aspects that impact and alter the waterfronts' functional and emotional relationships. More data demonstrates that the environment's physical qualities can improve both place identification and user pleasure. How to enhance and build linkages between persons and their environments is a fundamental concern for designers, planners and politicians. This research adds to our understanding of the human interaction with location and has crucial implications on the decision-making of urban designers, planners and administrations who want to transform their environments into better and more organised spaces.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration.....	ii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
Abstract.....	iv
Table of Contents.....	vi
List of Figures.....	vii
List of Tables.....	x
Introduction.....	01
Background to the Study.....	02
Research Gap.....	03
Research Questions and Research Objectives.....	04
Methodology.....	05
Limitations and Scope of Study.....	06
Chapter 1 - Literature Review.....	07
1.1. Sense of Place.....	08
1.1.1. Concept of Place and Sense of Place.....	08
1.1.2. Sense of Place in Environmental Experience.....	10
1.1.3. Scales of Sense of Place.....	11
1.1.4. Contributing Factors in the Formation of Sense of Place...	12
1.1.5. Process of Spatial Perception with reference to Urban Space Relationships.....	13
1.2. Waterfronts.....	15
1.2.1. Historical Progression of Waterfronts.....	15
1.2.2. The Urban Waterfront.....	18
1.2.2.1. Types of Urban Waterfront.....	19
1.2.2.2. Features of Urban Waterfronts.....	20
1.2.2.3. Typical Urban Waterfront Development Patterns...	21

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONTD)

1.2.3. Water as a Planning Element in Urban Areas.....	22
1.2.4. Waterfront Development.....	24
1.2.5. Risks and Benefits of Waterfront Developments.....	25
1.2.6. Principles for Successful Waterfront Development.....	27
Chapter 2 - Theoretical Framework and Research Methodology.....	30
2.1. Theoretical framework.....	31
2.2. Research Methodology.....	32
2.2.1. The Research Method.....	32
2.2.2. Research Process.....	32
2.2.3. Selection of Research Method.....	34
2.2.4. Reasons for Selecting Negombo as an area of Study...	35
2.2.5. Data Collecting Method.....	36
2.2.5.1. Phase 01 - Constructing a Theoretical Framework.....	36
2.2.5.2. Phase 02 - Preliminary Survey.....	37
2.2.5.3. Phase 03 - Detailed Survey.....	39
2.2.6. Data Analysis Techniques.....	42
Chapter 3 - Study of Urban Waterfronts in Negombo.....	43
3.1. Case Study Framework.....	44
3.2. Case Study Locations.....	45
3.3. Case Study 01 - Beach Front.....	46
3.4. Case Study 02 - Hamilton Canal.....	62
3.5. Case Study 03 - Lagoon Front.....	74
Conclusion.....	87
List of References.....	92
Annexures.....	100

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1	Waterfront Development Phases Han & Beisi (2016)	17
Figure 1.2	Typical development pattern of an urban waterfront (Wrenn 1983)	21
Figure 1.3	The effects of water as a planning element in urban areas (Önen, M. 2007)	22
Figure 1.4	Elements of a Successful Waterfront Development Torre (1989)	28
Figure 2.1	Research Relationships and Study Framework	31
Figure 2.2	Research Process	33
Figure 2.2	Data Collection Model	36
Figure 3.1	Case Study Location Map	45
Figure 3.2	Composition of Land-use along the Beach Strip (UDA Negombo Development plan 2019-2030)	46
Figure 3.3	Photographic Survey done by UDA (Negombo Development Plan 2019-2030)	48
Figure 3.4	Photographic Survey of Negombo Beach	49



## LIST OF FIGURES (CONTD)

Figure 3.5	Value of functional parameters as a percentage (Case study 01)	55
Figure 3.6	Percentage values of Functional Attachment (Case study 01)	56
Figure 3.7	Value of Emotional parameters as a percentage (Case study 01)	59
Figure 3.8	Percentage values of Emotional Attachment (Case study 01)	60
Figure 3.9	Percentage values of Emotional Attachment parameters (Case study 01)	61
Figure 3.10	Land-Use Percentages along the Hamilton Canal (UDA – Negombo Development plan 2019-2030)	62
Figure 3.11	Photographic Survey of Hamilton Canal	64
Figure 3.12	Percentage values of Functional Attachment parameters (Case study 02)	68
Figure 3.13	Percentage values of Functional Attachment (Case study 02)	69
Figure 3.14	Percentage values of Emotional Attachment parameters (Case study 02)	72

## LIST OF FIGURES (CONTD)

Figure 3.15	Percentage values of Emotional Attachment (Case study 02)	73
Figure 3.16	Percentage values of Sense of Place (Case study 02)	74
Figure 3.17	Illustration of Encroachment of Lagoon (UDA – Negombo Development plan 2019-2030)	75
Figure 3.18	Photographic Survey of Negombo Lagoon	76
Figure 3.19	Percentage values of Functional Attachment parameters (Case study 03)	81
Figure 3.20	Percentage values of Functional Attachment (Case study 03)	82
Figure 3.21	Percentage values of Emotional Attachment parameters (Case study 03)	85
Figure 3.22	Percentage values of Emotional Attachment (Case study 03)	86
Figure 3.23	Percentage values of Sense of Place (Case study 03)	87

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.0	Pilot Survey Summary	38
Table 2.1	Survey Schedule	40
Table 3.0	Case Study Analysis Framework	44
Table 3.1	Landuse Percentages along the Beach Strip (UDA - Negombo Development plan 2019-2030)	47
Table 3.2	Respondent Age & Gender Categories (Case Study 01)	50
Table 3.3	Respondent Religion Categories (Case Study 01)	50
Table 3.4	Questionnaire Responses on Functional Attachment (Case Study 01)	52
Table 3.5	No. of responses for functional attachment parameters (Case Study 01)	55
Table 3.6	Questionnaire Responses on Emotional Attachment (Case Study 01)	57
Table 3.7	No of responses for emotional attachment parameters (Case Study 01)	59
Table 3.8	Sense-of-Place Markers (Case Study 01)	61
Table 3.10	Respondent Age & Gender Categories (Case Study 02)	64

## **LIST OF TABLES (CONTD)**

Table 3.11	Respondent Religion Categories (Case Study 02)	64
Table 3.12	Questionnaire Responses on Functional Attachment (Case Study 02)	65
Table 3.13	No. of responses for functional attachment parameters (Case Study 02)	67
Table 3.14	Questionnaire Responses on Emotional Attachment (Case Study 02)	69
Table 3.15	No of responses for emotional attachment parameters (Case Study 02)	71
Table 3.16	Sense-of-Place Markers (Case Study 02)	75
Table 3.17	Respondent Age & Gender Categories (Case Study 03)	76
Table 3.18	Respondent Religion Categories (Case Study 03)	76
Table 3.19	Questionnaire Responses on Functional Attachment (Case Study 03)	78
Table 3.20	No. of responses for functional attachment parameters (Case Study 03)	80
Table 3.21	Questionnaire Responses on Emotional Attachment (Case Study 03)	82

## **LIST OF TABLES (CONTD)**

Table 3.22	No of responses for emotional attachment parameters (Case Study 03)	84
Table 3.23	Sense-of-Place Markers (Case Study 03)	86