LA Partonia Monte Ar.

## ECO FRIENDLY ARCHITECTURE IN ECO TOURISM

An illustrative study of Eco tourist architecture in the tropical environment with special reference to Sri Lankan context

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the Master of Science in Architecture

Department of Architecture

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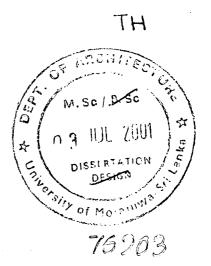
Sri Lanka

30<sup>th</sup> June 2001



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The pace of development in countries within the tropical region is among the fastest in the world. Yet many of these nations still depend heavily on their natural resources. This today has led to a conflict: rapid development places an ever-increasing claim on scarce natural resources, which results in environmental degradation. On the other hand the effects on the ecological balance due to mankinds short sighted activities.

The key element in any sustainable development is to ensure that they are undertaken in an environmentally sound manner. Here the buildings are the main added contributor into the creation of imbalance in the natural environment. With the rise of the concept of eco tourism this has become more aggravated as it makes direct physical interaction within the nature. The built environment as the major physical component in eco tourism, which also contributes to give the character to he place, visualizes the significant role of the architect creating sustainable eco tourism friendlier towards the nature. But unfortunately in the contemporary practice of eco tourist architecture, though it needs to be exceptionally eco friendly, has lost the sensitivity mainly because of lack of understanding the design principles of eco tourism.

Finding the solution it convinced the necessity of the comprehensive understanding of eco friendly architecture, which is the total interpretation of design principles of eco tourism. Thus the study is initially attempted to make a broader understanding of eco friendly architecture, clearly defining the concept as a holistic approach of the green, eco sensitive, sustainable and ecological conceptions with their physical and psychological perception as a criteria to evaluate the design principles in a more elaborative manner.

Since the concept of eco tourism is highly elaborated in the tropical nature and its merged exclusive culture the examples are evaluated mostly within the tropical eco systems. Thus the study attempts to visualize how possibly viable eco tourism can be generated in Sri Lanka which has an exotic tropical nature enriched with an exclusive culture. Thus has given examples of some of the recent tourist products, which are developed within these natural and socio cultural settings making closer attitudes towards sustainable eco tourist architecture.

My sincere gratitude is due to many who contributed in the production of this Dissertation.

My special thanks goes to Professor Nimal De Silva, Head of the department of architecture and Architect Chris De Saram Senior Lecturer at University of Moratuwa, for encouraging me during the study by correcting and advising me taking their valuable time of their busy schedules.

Architects Vijitha Basnayaka and D. P. Chandrasekara my tutors for believing the worth of this study and guiding me by giving incisive comments and valuable criticisms, which helped me and gave pace to develop my thoughts and approach to this study.

I am profoundly great to Dr. L. S.R. Perera, the Senior Lecturer in the Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa for all his guidance given at the beginning of the study.

Great appreciation goes to Architect Sunil Gunawardana, Mr. Chandra De Silva; Managing Director Ranweli Holiday Village, Mr. Chandra Wickramasinge; Chairman of Connaissance de Ceylon Ltd, Mr. Hemantha Ratnayake; Operations Manager Kandalama Hotel and Mudiyanse Thennakoon at Ulpotha.

My warmest thanks goes to Rachitra and her Family and to my friends Udaya, Ashoka, Dilkushan and Madhuwanthi for their constant support given in numerous ways during the study.

Last but not least my greatest gratitude goes to my dear parents, sisters who were behind me encouraging all the time.



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