

**A STUDY ON THE CHANGING ARCHITECTURE OF BUDDHIST TEMPLES
IN SRI LANKA; AN EXAMINATION OF COLONIAL INFLUENCE ON
BUDDHIST TEMPLE BUILDINGS IN GALLE**

The dissertation submitted to the faculty of architecture, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, for the examination of M. Sc (ARCH) and part two of the Royal Institute of British Architects.



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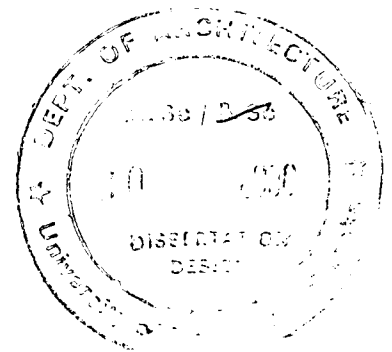
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ABSTRACT

The Buddhist temple could be considered as the center for dissemination of the teachings of Lord Buddha. The design of Buddhist temples plays a major role in providing the suitable environment for the users to engage in various religious activities. Therefore, Buddhist temple architecture needs to pay due attention on the philosophical aspects of Buddhism, in order to fulfill this requirement.

The arrival of western colonials which began in 1505 A.D., resulted in the Sri Lanka undergoing major transformations, which included local architecture too. This research study attempts to investigate how colonial influence has affected the Buddhist temple architecture in Sri Lanka. In doing so, attention has been paid to temples in the Galle district, mainly because of the continuous occupation of colonials in the southern coastal belt, for a period exceeding three centuries. The study highlights how the colonial influence has impacted on the ability of the Buddhist temple to convey the original concepts of Buddhist philosophy, by comparatively analyzing the changes that have taken place in Buddhist temple architecture in pre and post colonial eras.



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CONTENTS

Page

Abstract

Acknowledgement

List of figures

Glossary

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

1.1. Topic explanation	1
1.2. Intention of the study	2
1.3. Need of the study	2
1.4. Scope and limitations	2
1.5. Methodology	2

CHAPTER 2: BUDDHISM AND BUDDHIST TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE IN SRI LANKA

2.1. The concept of Buddhist philosophy	4
2.2. The concept of Buddhist temple environment	5
2.3. Dominant characteristics of Buddhist temples	8
2.4. Society and the temple	12
2.4.1. Monks	13
2.4.2. Devotees	14
2.5. Early Buddhist temple architecture in Sri Lanka	15
2.6. Buddhist temple architecture in Sri Lanka	20
2.6.1. Architectural planning	20
2.6.1.1 Locational Planning	20
2.6.1.2 Layout Planning	21
2.6.2 Shrine and sanctuaries	23
2.6.2.1 Stupa or Dagaba	24
2.6.2.2 Bodigara and Bo-tree	26
2.6.2.3 Prathimaghara	28
2.6.3. Ecclesiastical buildings	29
2.6.3.1 Preaching Hall	29
2.6.3.2 Chapter House	30
2.6.4. Residential buildings	31
2.6.4.1 Awasage	31
2.6.4.2 Pirivena	32

CHAPTER 3 : COLONIAL INFLUENCE ON SRI LANKAN ARCHITECTURE

3.1. Colonial influence on Sri Lankan society	33
3.1.1. Portuguese	33
3.1.2. Dutch	33
3.1.3. British	34
3.2. Colonial influence on Sri Lankan Architecture	35
3.2.1. Portuguese	35
3.2.2. Dutch	37
3.2.3. British	39

3.3. Examples of post-colonial period temples in Galle	41
3.3.1. Case study one - Totagamuwa Rajamaha Viharaya - Telwatte	42
3.3.1.1. Locational Planning	42
3.3.1.2. Layout Planning	43
3.3.1.3. Stupa	45
3.3.1.4. Bo tree	45
3.3.1.5. Image house	46
3.3.1.6. Preaching Hall	47
3.3.1.7. Chapter house	48
3.3.1.8. Bell tower	48
3.3.1.9. Residential buildings	48
3.3.1.10 Pirivena	51
3.3.2. Case study two - Sunandaramaya Viharaya - Ambalangoda	51
3.3.2.1. Locational Planning	52
3.3.2.2. Layout Planning	53
3.3.2.3. Stupa	54
3.3.2.4. Bo tree	54
3.3.2.5. Image house	55
3.3.2.6. Preaching Hall	56
3.3.2.7. Chapter house	57
3.3.2.8. Bell tower	58
3.3.2.9. Residential building	58
3.3.2.10. Pirivena	60

CHAPTER 4 : AN ANALYTICAL COMPARISON OF PRE COLONIAL AND POST COLONIAL TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE IN GALLE

4.1. Locational Planning	61
4.2. Layout Planning	63
4.3. Architectural elements	67
4.3.1. Chatiya	67
4.3.2. Bo tree	70
4.3.3. Patimagara	71
4.3.4. Preaching hall	75
4.3.5. Uposathagara	79
4.3.6. Gantarakuluna	82
4.3.7. Awasage	83
4.3.8. Pirivena and Library	87
4.4. Building elements	89
4.4.1. Structure	89
4.4.1.1 Roof structure	89
4.4.2. Columns and arches	91
4.4.3. Doors and windows	95
4.4.4. Moulding	98
4.4.5. Ornamentation	99
4.4.6. Glazed tiling	101
4.4.7. Painting	102
CONCLUSION	107
BIBLIOGRAPHY	109



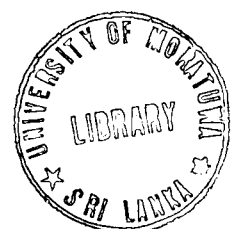
LIST OF FIGURES

<i>Fig No.</i>		<i>Page</i>
1	Location of the temple feels sacredness	6
2	Pathways used, a worshiper is subjected to control some extent.	6
3	Arrangement of Buddhist sacred place	7
4	Interior arrangement of Buddhist religious buildings	8
5	Dambulla rock temples placed on the top of mountain	9
6	Kandy Tooth relic temple	9
7	Long stepping ways	10
8	Degree of sacred value and dominance by through layout	10
9	Stupa dominates over the surrounding.	11
10	Interior of shrine room	11
11	Dominance through powerful form - Image house- Lankathilaka	12
12	Location of the cave temple- Vessagiriya.	16
13	Improvement of the caves	16
14	Arrangement of monastic city of Anuradhapura	17
15	Layout plan of the Buddhist temple - Vijayaramaya	19
16	Location of Buddhist monasteries in early Anuradhapura	21
17	Layout plan- Mirisawatiya.	22
18	Planning arrangement of Pabbathavihara	23
19	A Dagaba with its plan form- Ruwanwilisaya	24
20	Stupa shapes.	26
21	Jayasirimahabodi of Mahavihara complex	27
22	Plan form of bodimanda- Jayasirimahabodika	27
23	Plan form of patimagara- Vessagiriya	28
24	Plan form with elevation of Lovamahapasada	30
25	Chapter house-remaining stone column of the brazen palace.	30
26	Residential complex Abayagiriya - Anuradhapura	31
27	Plan form of individual kuti- Abayagya	32
28	Colonnade type -Jaffna Chankanai church	36
29	Open hall type- Portuguese period church at Kalpitiya.	36
30	"Mushrabiyya" in Galle fort	37
31	Double arch window- Matara and Jaffna church.	37
32	Dutch home rich with their architecture.	38
33	Fashionable gable ends in Dutch period	38
34	Fashionable door and windows in the Dutch period.	39
35	Dutch reformed church at kalpitiya and kotahena (wolvendal)	39
36	British period house with British renaissance architecture	41
37	Kalaniya church rich with British architectural style.	41
38	Locational plan of Totagamuwa Viharaya	43
39	Layout plan of Totagamuwa Viharaya	44
41	Stupa with shrine room -Totagamuwa Viharaya	45
42	Bo- tree with Bodigara -Totagamuwa Viharaya	45
43	Image house -Totagamuwa Viharaya	46
44	Image house (old) -Totagamuwa Viharaya	47
45	Preaching hall -Totagamuwa Viharaya	47
46	Pohoyage -Totagamuwa Viharaya	48
47	Gantara kuluna -Totagamuwa Viharaya	49
48	Awasage -Totagamuwa Viharaya	50
49	Awasage -Totagamuwa Viharaya	50
50	Awasage -Totagamuwa Viharaya	50
51	Library building -Totagamuwa Viharaya	51

52	Locational plan of Sunandarama Viharaya	52
53	Layout plan -Sunandarama Viharaya	53
54	Stupa with shrine room -Sunandarama Viharaya	54
55	Bo- tree with Bodigara -Sunandarama Viharaya	55
56	Old image house -Sunandarama Viharaya	55
57	Small image house -Sunandarama Viharaya	56
58	Preaching hall -Sunandarama Viharaya	57
59	Poyage with Library - Sunanadaramaya Viharaya	57
60	Gantara kuluna -Totagamuwa Viharaya	58
61	Old awasage -Sunandarama Viharaya	59
62	Recently constructed awasage.	59
63	Danasalawa Sunandarama Viharaya	59
64	Double storied pirivena -Sunandarama Viharaya	60
65	Colonial period temple location with city	61
66	Location of Sunandarama Viharaya	62
67	Location of Totagamuwa Viharaya	62
68	Early Buddhist temple in Anuradhapura	63
69	Arrangement of edifices of colonial period temples	64
70	Layout plan of Totagamuwa Viharaya	65
71	Layout plan of Sunandarama Viharaya	66
72	Early Buddhist Layout plan Puliyankulama.	67
73	Plan form Chaitiya - Totagamuwa Viharaya	68
74	Chaithya - Totagamuwa Viharaya	68
75	Plan form Chaithya - Sunandarama Viharaya	69
76	Chitiya - Sunanadaramaya Viharaya	69
77	Plan form of stupa - Tiriyaya	69
78	Plan form of Bo tree- Totagamuwa Viharaya	70
79	Plan form of Bo tree-- Sunandarama Viharaya	70
80	Original bodigara www.lib.mrt.ac.lk	70
81	Plan form of patimagara - Totagamuwa Viharaya	72
82	Patimagara with colonial influence -Totagamuwa Viharaya	73
83	Plan form of old image house violated axial planning arrangement -	73
84	Old pilimage with two entrance -Totagamuwa Viharaya	73
85	Plan form of - Sunandarama Viharaya	74
86	Old pilimage demonstrate influence- Sunandarama Viharaya	74
87	Image house- Sunandarama Viharaya	75
88	View of New Image house - Sunandaramaya Viharaya	76
89	Pathimagara - Tholuwila	75
90	Plan form of preaching hall -Totagamuwa Viharaya	76
91	Exterior view of preaching hall -Totagamuwa Viharaya	77
92	Large colonnaded circumambulated path. -Totagamuwa Viharaya	77
93	Preaching hall - Sunanadaramaya Vihara	78
94	Appearnace of Sunandarama Viharaya	77
95	Large colonated path - Sunandaramaya Viharaya	79
96	Plan form of uposathagara with veranda- Sunandarama Viharaya	80
97	Chapter house of Sunandarama reflected colonial influence.	80
98	The plan form of large uposathagara -Totagamuwa Viharaya	81
99	Uposathagara - Totagamu Viharaya	81
100	The plan form of Uposathagara - Pankuliya	81
101	Bell-tower - Sunandarama Viharaya	82
102	Bell tower at Totagamuwa Viharaya	83
103	Plan form of awasage- Sunandaramaya Viharaya	84
104	Main awasage - Sunandarama Viharaya	84
105	Plan form of refectory building -Sunandarama Viharaya	85
106	Colonnaded veranda of refectory- Sunandarama Viharaya	



107	Plan form of self contain unit -Totagamuwa Viharaya	86
108	Exterior view of main awasage -Totagamuwa Viharaya	86
109	View of typical awasage -Totagamuwa Viharaya	86
110	View of typical awasage -Totagamuwa Viharaya	87
111	Separate smaller unit (kuti) - Pankuliya	87
112	Pirivena of Sunandarama Viharaya	88
113	Excavated foundation of pirivena -Totagamuwa Viharaya	88
114	Early pirivena at Anuradhapura	88
115	Double hip roof - Sunanadaramaya	90
116	Double hip roof - Totagamu Viharaya	90
117	Perpendicular hip rafters	90
118	Kandyan roof the main feature in Kandyan architecture	91
119	Column with arch	92
120	Associated no: of column with arch -Sunandarama Viharaya	93
121	Three sets of columns of shrine - Totagamuwa Viharaya	92
122	Column with pilaster capital- Polonnaruwa period	93
123	Decorated gable end of pilimage- Sunandarama Viharaya	94
124	Decorated gable end of pilimagara-Totagamuwa Viharaya	94
125	Large arch door- Sunandarama Viharaya	95
126	Decorated floriated door with glass panel - Sunandarama Viharaya	95
127	Stone arch doorway with timber panel -Totagamuwa Viharaya	96
128	Doorway at Anuradhapura period	96
129	Arch window -Sunandarama Viharaya	97
130	Decorated floriated window -Sunandarama Viharaya	97
131	Moulding used for decoratign the temple buildings	98
132	Decorated stone vahalkada at Ruwanwelisaya	98
133	Decorated ornaments on the uposathagara- Sunandarama Viharaya	99
134	Detailed union jack - Sunandarama Viharaya	100
135	Coloured mosaic - Sunandarama Viharaya	100
136	Decorated ornamentations - Anuradhapura period	100
137	Decorated tile at image house- Sunandarama Viharaya	101
138	Glazed coat clay tile at awasage -Totagamuwa Viharaya	102
139	Pilimage rich with paintings Sunandarama Viharaya	103
140	Colonial influence of paintings- Sunandarama Viharaya	104
141	Colonial influence of paintings- Sunandarama Viharaya	104
142	Colonial influence of paintings -Totagamuwa Viharaya	105
143	Traditional wall paintings at Pulligoda temple	105
144	Colonial influenced affected to decorated figure -Totagamuwa Viharaya	106



GLOSSARY


A

Antaravasaka	Lower garment, one of the three monastic garments
Arhat	A saint who has attained nirvana in this human existence
Arama	Monastery, park
Asana	Seat, throne, attitude or posture
Asanaghara	House of the seat or throne
Avasa	Dwelling, temple

B

Bhikkhu	Mendicant monk, male member of the Buddhist order
Bhikkhuni	Nun, female member of the Buddhist order
Bhumi	Earth, ground, floor, storey
Bodhi	Perfect knowledge, enlightenment
Bodhighara	House of the Bodhi-tree
Bodhivrkasa	Bo-tree, the tree of Enlightenment, <i>Ficus religiosa</i> Asvatta-tree
Bubbulakara	Bubble shaped stupa

C

Caitya	 University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Electronic Theses & Dissertations Cetiya (Pali) synonymous with stupa
Catussal	An open or closed quadrangle surrounded by buildings on all four sides, an enclosed courtyard
Caturassra	Four sided, a square
Chatra	An umbrella, a parasol mounted over a harmika of an ancient <i>stupa</i>

D

Dagaba	Receptacle for ashes or relics, synonym of stupa
Doratupalarupa	Guard-stones

G

Garbha	The womb
Garbhagarha	Inner cell, sanctum
Ghanthakara	Bell shaped stupa

H

Harmika	Square structure above the dome of a stupa
Hataraskotuwa	Square enclosure of a stupa at the top

Kalasa	Water pot
Kuti	Cell
L	
Lena	Cave
M	
Mahavihara	Great monastery - the centre of Theravada Buddhism during the Anuradhapura period
Mahavamsa	Great Chronicle - describes the ancient period c Sinhalese Buddhist history from the legendary King Vijaya (5th Cen. BC) up to King Mahasena (276-303 AC); continued by the Culavamsa
Mahayana	The great vehicle form of Buddhism stressing the ideal of Bodhisattva, includes Vajrayana, Tantrayana etc
Makaratorana	Portal with makara motifs
Maluva	Terrace
Mandala	Circle, mystic diagram of the Buddhist cosmos
Mandapa	A pavilion
Murti	Image, idol, statue, manifestation
P	
Padhgnaghara	 Piyangala (old Sinhalese): meditation hall of a monastery
Padma	Lotus, used as a symbol of purity and creative fertility
Pancavasa	The five kinds of edifices belonging to a Buddhist Monastery namely: Cetiya, Bodhi, Patima, Uposatha and Pasada
Pasada	The mansion, dwelling
Patimaghara	Image house
Pesava	Moulded plinth at the base of a stupa, Bern
Prakara	A wall
Prasada	A mansion, residential quarters of a monastery
Pusthakalaya	Library
S	
Sangha	Community of Buddhist monks
Sankha	Conch
Sandakadapahana	Moon-stone
Sinha	Lion
Siraspata	Flame on the head of a Buddha statue

Stupa Structure of more or less hemispherical shape and erected over relics (see dagaba, thupa)

T

Thera An elder Buddhist monk

Theri An elder Buddhist nun

Theravada School of the elders, orthodox form of Buddhism.

Synonymous with Hinayana and Sravakayana

Thupaghara Synonymous with cetiyaghara

U

Uposathaghara The chapter house

V

Vajrisana Attitude of vajira, diamond throne, sitting posture with crossed and interlocked legs and with both soles of the feet upwards (dhyanasana)

Vatadage Circular shrine

Vahalkada Frontispiece of a Stupa at the four cardinal points

Vava

Vedi

Vihara

A Buddhist Temple or monastery



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