***UOM Verified Signature***

This is to declare that this dissertation presented to the University of Moratuwa for the Master of Science degree in Landscape Design, 2003, has been written by me.

*UOM Verified Signature*

(M.G.Thushari Kariyawasam)

**To my mother.....**

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I gratefully acknowledge all the individuals who have rendered their help to me, throughout my effort in preparation of this dissertation. My special thanks are rendered to the following persons for the dedication of their time and energy to help formulate this study:

Architect Vidura Sri Nammuni, Senior lecturer, Department of Architecture for invaluable advice and for directing me towards this end from the very beginning.

Architect Channa Daswatta (Year Master) and the Lecturer, Department of Architecture for the valuable advice given at the preliminary stages.

I thank Architect Shirani Balasooriya, Course Director- landscape unit for guidance and invaluable advice and all her encouragements through out my M.Sc.



I sincerely thank Dr. John Byrom also for his valuable comments and guidance given from the inception and the final draft of this dissertation.

I thank Architect Wasana Wijesingha and Architect Rasika for the great help she has rendered me. I also wish to thank Mr. Vithana and Mr. Weerasooriya, of the technical staff, Faculty of Architecture.

To all my friends who helped me in numerous other ways, who argued, criticized, commented, joked.... Yet encouraged me in all good fun.

Finally I am grateful to my dear parents and my husband Sujeewa for the assistance given in producing this Dissertation, for their persistent encouragement and constant guidance from the very beginning to the end.

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**Abstract**

The experience of space is a common and vital human need, similar to food, sleep, and clothing. Man as a species with inherent emotional needs experiences space with the aim of satisfying the objectives or needs for which space is supposed to be used. For achieving such aims particular spatial behaviours are needed by particular situations. Therefore special experiences should be defined and conditioned, to generate appropriate behaviour patterns in a given place.

With regard to the experience of a building, these spatial experiences usually form a sequence, in which each experience is conditioned by the successive experiences of past and probable future experiences. Sudden change of experience from one condition to another causes physical and psychological separation, often resulting in stressful and inappropriate behavioural patterns in man. In relation to building, front garden spaces created as in between spaces might avoid such behavioural changes, by conditioning the spatial experience of people. Either providing physically occupied spatial transitional spaces or allowing vision from one space to another as usual transitional space, such intermediate space might perform its role in conditioning the behaviours of people.

Motivation is the basic psychological need that should be satisfied by a transitional space for such a conditioning of behaviour. Motivation accomplishes its role by sustenance of different patterns of emotions and actions. In architecture, intermediate approach space allows people to gradually achieve the ultimate objective of the building. This may be referred to as "threshold space", and in Sri Lankan culture it has special meaning.

Natural spaces are man's basic desirable experience and characteristically they provide inspiration, comfort and relaxation. Due to reciprocal relationship with a building, and also due to its infinite motivational attributes, threshold spaces of buildings can be used to achieve this end. Either in a form of a natural space or a combined natural and built space, these garden spaces can be made to fulfil this task. They take two forms namely, spatial transitional spaces of "rooms" and also visual transitional spaces of "panoramas" and "vistas".

These types of out door spaces thus can be formed to satisfy different transitional needs, by generating transitional behaviours.

Thus in relation to architectural experience, properly designed threshold spaces condition the behaviours of people and lead them gradually, to achieve the ultimate objective of the building and to make architectural experiences more efficient and successful. Landscaped front garden threshold outdoor spaces in and around buildings always forms a reciprocal relation with each other. **Therefore landscapes of out door spaces perform an important role in making architectural experiences more efficient and successful.**

## Preface

"Architecture for people, people for architecture, humane architecture, building for people, designing for the human individual" - these are all subtle nuances of meaning which connote a strong implied message that "we could do better" than we have been doing so far, in making our homes, our cities, our biosphere worthy of man in all his biological social and cultural peculiarities". 1

Designers follow various strategies and methods to fulfil this implied message of "we could do better", as described by the theorist Byron Mikellides.

These concerns of designers to create better architecture are frequently limited in treating the building as an object in the landscape. They tend to upgrade the quality of the building only giving attention to the designing of interior spaces – the using of high quality materials, innovating in building forms and proportions, using a variety of colours and textures and so on. But is this the ideal method to create humanized environments for day today survival? Can man always be happy and comfortable in such an environment? What else can make architectural experiences more efficient? Attempting to answer these questions reveals that there is another important factor that may be utilized to make architectural experiences more efficient. This factor is "threshold space" in and around buildings forming a reciprocal complement to the building.



As its name implies these threshold garden or out door spaces are considered mostly, only as spaces which are arranged as front yard courtyards.

This dissertation argues that creating an out door space/garden is no longer limited to provide such a garden but every piece of land left over by the building, and even with the building located as an object in the

site all of this space can be used to condition human spatial experience. According to it not only the tangible occupied spaces, but the spaces beyond, should be designed to be seen from the particular point to get inspiration. All such properly designed garden spaces, thus would satisfy the human physical and psychological needs, by conditioning the behaviour of people to achieve the objectives of the building.

Reference:

1. Mikellides Byron – Architecture for people 1980. p.6.

## Summary.

In its broadest sense, space is typically conceived as a void or a volume of atmosphere, which is never complete nor finite. This endless unlimited space, when situated within a large context, cannot be understood in isolation and therefore is not capable of perception. A proper experience of space is a vital necessity of any living organism, for a continual adaptation to different kinds of environments. So man by proper formation of space attempts to transform this infinite space into perceptible spaces and adapt to it through the conception of the space processes of perception, cognition and spatial behaviour. The emotions of a person are always thus conditioned by the way that the space has been formed, generating different kinds of human actions and reactions. If the spaces are properly designed, using his perceptive abilities, man will adapt to the environment, positively satisfying his needs. If not, different inappropriate behavioural conditions are created with no satisfaction of needs or objectives. Likewise spatial experiences and spatial behaviours are always conditioned by the way that the space has been formed and the way it is conceived.

Though spaces are formed as separate entities to perform different functions, according to the phenomena of perception, spatial experiences are always connected from one to the other. A person in a given place is said to have experienced more than one space at a time, that is occupied space or in space and the view or the out-spaces. Likewise spatial experiences always form a sequence of experiences, from one space to another. Architectural experiences for this reason invariably connect with the natural spaces beyond and form a sequence of experiences as in and out spaces. With regard to experiences of a particular building, the keeping of this sequence has become a necessity for proper experience and behaviour.

Since man has to change his settings both in physical and psychological terms from one condition to another, for his day-to-day survival, the continuous establishment of this sequence of experience becomes a problem. The "transitional space" as an "in-between" space thus assists in keeping a gradual sequence of experience, between such different experiences. It maintains that relationship either by allowing spatial transitional spaces for actual physical movements or by allowing visual transitional spaces to condition the emotions of the people via the vision. It thus basically acts as "conditioning spaces" between different spatial experiences. It is identified that as conditioning spaces of experience, the transitional spaces motivate people to behave properly by generating transitional behaviours of arousal, regulation and sustenance. According to the conception of space process, the responding behaviour, results as changes of emotions and actions. Therefore in the presence of transitional spaces, a person's emotions and actions begin to change, conditioned by these spaces to a gradual experiencing of the building.



In architecture, such spaces thus lead the person gradually to achieve the ultimate aim or objective of the building. Garden/out door spaces as one of man's inherent motivational attributes of giving inspirations and emotions also can be designed to act as a transitional space in relation to a building. Due to these motivational attributes and also due to its reciprocal relation with architectural experiences, these garden/out door spaces can be a great asset to utilize as a "transitional space" in architecture. It perform its role, as mentioned, by providing physically occupied "room" spaces and psychologically perceived "out spaces" or views". It is again according to the angle of vision divided into broad views or "panoramas" and restricted views or "vistas".

The formation of these, with regard to a particular building is part of the building designing process and part of the landscape process.

The satisfaction of transitional needs by these properly formed garden transitional spaces generates transitional behaviours of arousal, regulation and sustenance as required, in different situations as previously mentioned. As changes of emotions and actions, these transitional behaviours, particularly arousal and regulation, generate six inter connected behavioural responses as follows.

1. Arousal of emotions and actions.
2. Arousal of emotions and regulation of actions.
3. Regulation of emotions and arousal of actions.
4. Regulation of emotions and actions.
5. Regulation of emotion and arousal or regulation of actions.
6. Arousal of emotion and arousal or regulation of actions.

Satisfaction of transitional needs by the generation of these behavioural responses, in each of these types of garden transitional spaces of "rooms", "panoramas" and "vistas" will be studied by taking examples from public buildings.



Finally by taking selected public buildings, the study will clarify the ways of utilizing garden transitional space to achieve the ultimate goal or objective of the building. These examples will investigate such provision by garden/out door spaces in each of these case studies of

1. The Madakada Arannya Temple – the ultimate objective of gaining spiritual comfort and contemplation.
2. The integral Education centre – the acquiring of maturity and fullness through individual and integrated programmes.
3. Future Park super market, Bangkok, Thailand - The need to attract and sustain interest to use the space for effective transactions.
4. The Kandyan Cultural Center for the Kandyan Art Association – the realization of the cultural adaptation of traditional and modern visions.

5. The Asian Institute of Technology, University of Bangkok, Thailand.

The generation of transitional behaviours by the garden/out door spaces as means to satisfy these needs in a sequence will be considered. Likewise the study will conclude by establishing the role of garden/out door spaces as "transitional spaces" in architecture.