SECOND
INTERNATIONAL
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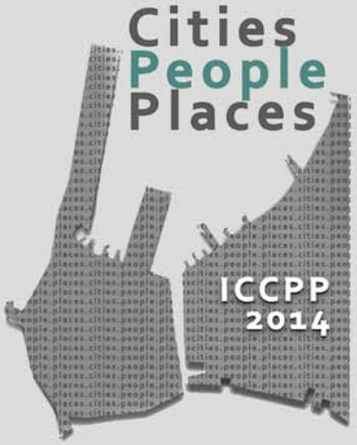
CONFERENCE

ICCPP-2014

Cities
People
Places



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'Reinventing Cities and Places'

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Department of Architecture
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

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Cities, People and Places

ICCPP- 2014

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Theme:

'Re-inventing Cities and Places"

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This second International conference on 'Cities, People & Places' (ICCPP-2014) organised by the Department of Architecture of the University of Moratuwa with its international partners demonstrates two significant developments. First, it is an acknowledgement of the relevance of the conference that cuts across the conventional boundaries of disciplines to spearhead the movement of interdisciplinary approach to the scientific study of cities. The idea of place was employed there to be able to talk to all stakeholders. Second, it also demonstrates clearly that the new partnerships established since 2012 have grown to a solid base now culminating in greater solidarity. It has already enabled the foundation of a network through the University of Moratuwa, focused on cities, people and places.

It is undeniable that these could not have been achieved without the tremendous support of many. First and foremost, the Department of Architecture of the University of Moratuwa, from the Head of the Department to the supportive staff have been working hard to bring this to fruition. In support, the international and national academic partners have also devoted their time and efforts wherever it was necessary.

Most significant however are the continuous and willing academics and intellectuals, who have recognised the relevance of the issues raised, and have decided to participate. We are thankful to the many authors from around the world who submitted very interesting abstracts and subsequently developed them to the fully pledged research papers we shared at this conference. If not for them, this event would have not really taken place. However, we are regretful to not have been able to accommodate all submitted papers to publish in the proceedings or to present at the conference. With the double blind peer review system implemented rigorously, the papers have reached a very high standard, thanks to the eminent members of the International Review Board. Needless to say that the papers reveal great insights into the cities, people and places from around the world, and will facilitate the re-invention of the cities for the emerging multi-cultural and complex societies.

From the initial stage of working out an appropriate theme to the holding of the students' workshop, many have contributed. Reviewing of abstracts once and papers again and to offer constructive comments to make the papers more meaningful are no easy tasks. Indeed, they are time taking serious engagements with no return benefits to the reviewers except contributing to the intellectual enhancement of a conference. We highly appreciate their contributions and hope that they will stay with us in the future.

We are grateful to the Chief Guest for the encouraging thoughts and gracing the occasion. The dignitaries at the opening ceremony gave the conference an aura of a highly intellectual gathering. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa and his personal support has been an enormous encouragement for the event, and his graceful presence is much appreciated.

We greatly value the contribution of the Keynote Speaker Prof. Kimberly Dovey, Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of Melbourne, Australia as an expert on 'places', the theoretical articulations and the insights he shared gave the 'cities, people & places' the coherence it needed. Two other key notes speakers Prof. Sarath Kotagama, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and Architect Planner Dr. Locana Gunaratna, Gunaratna Associates, Sri Lanka provided other directions into the theme which we appreciate. We acknowledge the support of the Session Chairs and co-chairs for managing the event, paper presenters, Best Paper Award Selection Committee and all the other invitees for their invaluable commitment to advance these ideas through the conference.

We are also grateful for the organizations that have provided sponsorships, without which this event would have been difficult to organise. Last but not least, all our colleagues in the organizing committee and the supportive staff have done a tremendous amount of work behind doors to enable this event to happen. We specially thank them all for contributing to make this Second International Conference on "Cities, People & Places-ICCPP2014" a great success.

Ranjith Dayaratne & Janaka Wijesundara
Editors, ICCPP-2014
October 2014, Colombo.

FOREWORD

With this conference having been held in Colombo for the second time, 'Cities, People & Places' has established itself as a relevant, meaningful and intellectually stimulating opportunity to examine the deeper issues of architecture, urban design and other built-environmental disciplines within the framework of cities. People conceptualise cities as places and experience and dwell in the places that come into being. Places are constantly in transformation, and as Kim Dovey has put it, in the process of 'becoming', together with people. Our intentions in this series of confluences was to try and understand these reciprocal relationships between people and places in the context of cities and towards that end, the papers presented in this proceedings offer multi-faceted views and explorations across the built-environmental disciplines. The issues have ranged from purely functional aspects and city making technologies to quality of living and character of places. New themes have also emerged; that of violence in cities and of disasters and emergencies.

Neither the inventions of cities after the Neolithic Revolution around 7500 BCE, like Mesopotamia nor the recent re-inventions of modern ones in the 19th century would have envisaged to create the problems the cities seem to be posing today. In fact, the two basic necessities believed to be fundamental to city making; a good environment and strong social organization seem almost absent from many contemporary cities. On the one hand, cities are becoming crowded, polluted, and lacking in greenery, agricultural land and open spaces. On the other hand, cities have become mere conglomerations of millions of people, who do not know each other, do not trust each other and appear to resort to hostile behaviour violence and crimes in numerous subtle and manifest ways promoting individualism rather than communality. Undeniably, cities people and places do not seem to synchronize the way they should be. Tuning cities is not happening and one wonders whose task it would be to tune the cities so that cities and their places will enable people to dwell; in the words of Heidegger to 'dwell poetically'.

Creating fine-tuned cities and places is a fundamental objective of Urban Design. Achieving such an outcome involves community planning and design; understanding identity and character of cities and places; investigating into quality of public plazas and places; reflecting on experiencing the city and looking at and learning from great streets and public spaces. Modern world has added new dimensions such as technologically advanced spaces and digital culture. Hence planning and infusing technologies for cities, promoting social consciousness, promoting urban conservation and managing urban cultural heritage are all necessary for sustainable fine-tuning through urban design. The sub themes of this conference have attempted to organize the papers around similar categories for the convenience of understanding. However, they do not offer either a system of understanding or address these fundamentals conclusively. Nevertheless, they provide insights that are likely to help re-invent cities so that such attunements can happen.

In 2012, when the ICCPP was first launched, it was our intention to gather in Colombo; a fast developing Asian city, to look into the spaces and places of cities with a view to sharing our understandings and experiences of this complex human dimension of living in cities. It was envisaged that facilitating and constructing a holistic view of the cities would offer new directions of thinking. This second conference extended the many dialogues and conversations that began last year and helped achieve that objective. As we said at the beginning of the first conference, the meetings among people yield the most productive outcomes in society. This confluence is bound to catapult these ideas to a more meaningful future for cities.

Ranjith dayaratne & Janaka Wijesundara. Editors.

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