

ARCHITECTURAL RESPONSIVENESS OF ENTRY THRESHOLD SPACES OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS: PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION

Ironi Padmaperuma*, **Ubesingha Buddhinie,**
Jeewanthi Senadeera

City School of Architecture, Colombo, Sri Lanka

ABSTRACT

The entry threshold space is the first phase experienced in any built form and acts as the transitional space from the external to the internal space. It not only demarcates the entry point, but also serves as the starting point of a series of experiences. This process of entering and the entrance serving as the first impression of the building, effectively contributes to the overall expression of the built form, both architecturally and functionally.

Therefore, this paper aims to explore physical attributes of architectural responsiveness and people's perception of entry threshold spaces. The extensive literature survey carried out identified, fourteen components of physical attributes of entry threshold spaces, which create a space within to achieve architectural language and its expression.

Mixed mode research approach was adopted as the research methodology and three public buildings with a high level of public interaction were selected as cases, based on case study selection criteria. Data was collected with use of observations, mapping, photographic survey and a questionnaire. Collected data was analyzed within case and cross case, and statistical analysis was incorporated for quantitative data collected. Findings revealed cases studied were poorly responsive to physical attributes of responsive architecture. BMICH was better responsive compared to other three cases, followed by Nelum Pokuna. MRICC was least responsive. People's perception on responsiveness of entry threshold space was better in BMICH while Nelum Pokuna and MRICC were below average. Visual permeability was the most used physical attribute which was well perceived by people. Physical permeability and Human scale were also vastly used and perceived well by people.

Keywords: Threshold space, Entrance, Spatial progression, architectural responsiveness, people perception

*Corresponding Author: Ironi Padmaperuma; E-mail- ironisbv@gmail.com