

# **PROCEEDINGS**

## **International Urban Design Conference**

Colombo, Sri Lanka



**Theme:**

**'Cities, People and Places'**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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This International conference on 'Cities, People & Places' could not have been so successfully concluded, without the tremendous support of many organisations and people who had devoted their time and efforts and have extended their unreserved support. First and foremost, we express our sincere appreciation of the Department of Architecture of the University of Moratuwa, from the Head of Department to the supportive staff, who have, for nine months been toiling under trying circumstances to organize it, together with its international and national academic partners.

No conference can be held without willing and participatory academics and intellectuals, who would recognise the relevance of the issues raised, look at their own research and decide to bring out their research to share. A total of 102 abstracts were received, although eventually we were able to accommodate only about half that number. We are very thankful to those authors who submitted very interesting abstracts and subsequently developed them to the fully pledged research papers we shared at this conference. If not for them, we could not have held this event. Undeniably, the papers are of a high standard and offer revealing insights into the cities, people and places.

This has been possible only with the generous contribution of the eminent members of the International and Local Scientific Committees who made painstaking efforts to review abstracts once and papers again to offer constructive comments to make the papers more meaningful. Numerous others have been around, inspiring us by their talks, presenting, evaluating, or managing the dialogue that occurred. We are grateful to the Chief Guest for the encouraging thoughts, the Keynote speakers for their wisdom so willingly shared, the Session chairs for managing the event, paper presenters, best paper award selection committee and all the other invitees for their invaluable commitment and contribution to the conference.

Also, we are grateful for the organizations that have provided sponsorships, which have aided us in achieving our objectives. 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 devoting their time and effort to make this First International Conference on "Cities, People and Places" in Sri Lanka a great success.

Ranjith Dayaratne & Janaka Wijesundara  
Editors, ICCPP-2013  
Colombo, Sri Lanka  
October 2013

## FOREWORD

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Meetings among people are the most unpredictably productive events that can happen. In February 2013, at the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Annual Conference, a chance of meeting happened between the two authors of these proceedings; sitting in two separate rows, just close enough to have a friendly chat. It was there that the first seeds of this conference were planted.

Eight months later, the First International Conference organised by the University of Moratuwa on Urban Design is held from 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at the Foundation Institute in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Titled, international conference on “Cities, People and Places”, it is indeed about the places in cities, how people inhabit them and what ramifications they have for us the architects, planners and policy makers.

The call for papers received a very enthusiastic response. We received 102 abstracts, all of which were very interesting. Not least because they were related well to the theme, but because the approaches researchers were taking towards looking at the interface between people and places in cities were wide and varied. They ranged from issues of urban environments examined from functional aspects and city making technologies to quality of living and character of places.

Needless to say, these fitted well with the objectives of this conference. First, it was our intention to gather in Colombo; a fast developing Asian city, together with others who are looking into the spaces and places of cities with a view to sharing their understandings, experiences and research findings of the complex human dimension of living in cities. Second, it was envisaged that facilitating and constructing a holistic view of the problems faced by contemporary cities, and solutions for their meaningful growth was badly needed.

Making people-friendly 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 urban design. The sub themes of this conference have attempted to pigeonhole the papers into similar categories for the convenience of understanding.

The conference went through a rigorous reviewing process, by a well-qualified panel of international and local reviewers, with respect to originality, relevance, significance, reliability and quality of presentation. It was the quality and the standard of papers that were pursued rather than the numbers, and thus only half the abstracts have reached the final conference. We believe that the readers will find that the publication provides meaningful insights and offers support for the advancement of knowledge on urban places.

This conference is unlikely to come to a conclusion in Colombo and in this first one. Rather, the many dialogues and conversations that began in and around the conference venue will take on their own directions with the relationships that have been built among the participants. As we said at the beginning, the meetings among people will yield the most productive outcomes in society. We hope to meet somewhere again for a similar confluence.

Ranjith Dayaratne & Janaka Wijesundara, Editors-ICCP-2013

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