

ADAPTABILITY IN ARCHITECTURE: A STUDY OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ADAPTABILITY IN SHOPPING MALLS IN COLOMBO

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ABSTRACT

Future cities are focusing on adapting to population growth and changing needs. With the rapid change of social and economic circumstances in urban areas, the requirement of urban and building spaces are changing. Need for the spaces that can adapt to a new changing needs increase. Currently, the whole world is facing a pandemic situation, where the building spaces are trying to cater to new lifestyles. This is a timely and vital need in keeping up with this rapid change. The rigidity in the use of spaces and rigidity of function results in the space being utilized less effectively and not able to adapt to the rising array of functions.

This study aimed to identify the significance, characteristic features and design strategies used in promoting adaptability in shopping malls and to understand whether these shopping malls have successfully portrayed these characteristics of adaptability in its spaces. A qualitative research approach was used to explore the adaptability of shopping malls and accordingly three cases were studied.

Findings revealed that adaptability can be achieved mainly by spatial aspects, physical elements, building character and contextual aspects. Design strategies that can be used to achieve adaptability were explored. It was identified that only a few of the design strategies of adaptability were incorporated in the studied cases. Adaptability by spatial aspects and adaptability by contextual aspects were highly used by cases studied. Adaptability by building characters were least used.

Keywords: Adaptability, layers, shopping malls, spatial

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