Aft'word

“Local Societies...must preserve their identities, and build on their historical roots, regardless of their economic and functional dependence upon the space of flows.”

Manuell Castella

This paper was never intended as a manual of style for Tropical architectural design, nor was it ever to advocate stylistically an approach that is absolute towards the same end.

It set out to examine the reasons for a paradigm shift towards an architecture that encompasses the climatic context in search of a relevant architectural identity relevant to the region.

In the search for this identity, the vernacular is presented as the indisputable source, a culturally relevant archetype of the region, as well as an example of nigh-optimal climatic response. The understanding of the climate and the vernacular has been the basis of many architects’ works, exemplifying Charles Correa’s opinion that “if one does not hear the past clearly and honestly, it cannot become part of one’s work”.

In examining the vernacular through this short study, the pertinent time-tested principles have been extracted and examples of its translations have been discussed through building

examples, and in these examples, it is hoped that as translation of these principles begin to form a new language of Tropical architecture, these examples would form the basis for further exploration and evaluation of this language.

Granted that it is still experimental, coupled with the plethora of inherent variables that exist within the scope of architecture, reality may differ from the theoretical basis in the execution of works. Inherent in any infantile endeavour, this phenomenon can only be refined through further and more intense research, which this study hopefully will serve as a starting point, a primer of sorts, towards this climate-derived language of building.