Perceptions of Site
In Search of a Holistic Model

by

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Submitted to School of Architecture
On 17th September 1999 in
Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Architecture

Abstract

This dissertation, in three parts, deals with the perceptions of site and seeks to evaluate the possibility of approaching site study at a holistic level. Other than exploring existing systems that have been well established in their various contexts, a theoretical model, Global Model on Site (GMS), which was developed as part of a research project in Eindhoven University of Technology by Dr Li Xiaodong, has been selected as a vehicle for the investigation.

Part One is an introductory chapter which includes the definition of the ‘problem’, the outline of the underlying principles of two established systems, fengshui and Kevin Lynch’s theory, and followed by the elaboration on the approach and development of the GMS, which made use of the former two systems as case study subjects. The link between the GMS system with the two other established systems, fengshui and Kevin Lynch’s site planning theory, will be established in 1.2 which deals with the methodology employed in the development of the theoretical model.

Part Two will explore the application of the three systems mentioned in Part One on the two case studies chosen. The two case studies are chosen to establish grounds for investigating the universality in the application of the three systems and therefore the extreme contrast in the nature of the two sites. The first case study features the site of the Museum of Wood set in a forest region in Hyogo, Japan while the second one features an urban site in Orchard Road, next to Faber House.

Part Three would be the concluding chapter on the findings of the two case studies in relation to the application and feasibility of the GMS. Possible improvisation would be noted if inadequacies are uncovered during the process of applying the GMS to the different case studies. The performance of the three systems, in terms of adaptability in different contexts, would also be reviewed in this section.

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