PRODUCTION OF SPACE IN POST-COLONIAL SINGAPORE
The Resultant of the Socio-political Construct and the Changing Landscape

by

Goh Kee Joon Andy
HD99-1270X

B.A.(Architectural Studies)
National University of Singapore, 1998

Dissertation submitted to the School of Architecture in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
at the
National University of Singapore

ABSTRACT

The contestation of spaces in colonial Singapore has been a vivid one according to Yeoh (1996). The power relation between the colonised and colonisers has been a strenuous one, often testing the limits of both parties. Such attitudes of aggression and tension have changed or have taken on different forms after independence in a new relationship between the ruling party and the people.

This dissertation attempts to discover the new landscape for the production of space in the post-colonial period and its process of space-making. It will suggest that the process of spatial production is predominantly politically instigated leaving little or no space for contestation but that there are signs of a shift in the more recent years. This paper will also suggest that the allowance for such a shift is calculated and deliberate, throwing the nation into further state domination.

The observations of Henri Lefebvre, Michael Foucault, Edward Soja and Gilles Deleuze along with Chua Beng-Huat, Chan Heng Chee and Brenda Yeoh will form the philosophical and sociological basis of this discourse. Their notions of space and production will be employed specifically to examine the local context, through application of the socio-spatial dialectics in modern day Singapore.