ABSTRACT

In the past, HDB housing had the reputation of being impersonal, cold and 'similar looking'. This was due to housing designs that were fast and cheap to construct. The main concern then, was to fulfill the demand for cheap housing that started in the 50s. Pragmatic requirements were the main concern. Residents did not feel a sense of belonging in their new homes. The level of interaction was generally low.

'Integration' in public housing estates has finally been recognised as an important factor by the Housing and Development Board. In the new HDB estates, manifestations of designs that encourage residential interaction can be observed, via the precinct concept.

The dissertation will look into the importance of integration in the housing estates. The pertinent factors that influence integration will be analysed. A set of architectural strategies will be formulated in relation to these factors. At the same time, the design strategies in the precinct concept will also be studied to better understand the way they function.

It is hoped that these approaches to high-rise, high-density housing design can instill some positive sociological patterns amongst the residents. The limitations of architectural strategies in terms of integration will also be discussed.