AUTHENTIC SPACES IN THE CITY

Abstract

As we approach the twenty first century, many cities in the world will tend to be like one another. This is because due to the fact that with globalisation trends and rapidly improving information technology there will be a breaking down of geographic boundaries and national frontiers. This will lead to a universalising uniformity and loss of identity. We will discuss the authenticity of spaces in the city and in particular reference to Singapore. The loss of heritage and individuality and an attempt to recover urbanity, in Singapore this translates to the sacrifice of traditional building forms and activities to rapid economic development and the commercial viability. The crisis of the urban city is that because of global trends and ideas, there persists a universalising conformity and a subsequent loss of particularity. We will look at how educating the public about our architectural heritage could start forming and cultivating a national identity. Without being nostalgic, this ‘disavowal of modernist universalism’ could lead to a regaining of ‘pre-modern’ authenticity of particularism and localism through authentic spaces.