Abstract

For the last three or four decades tropical cities in South East Asia have been facing colossal pressure from rapid industrialisation and urbanisation. This expansion has an adverse effect on the urban spaces of these tropical cities. Almost all the big cities of South East Asia have a colonial history and influence. The rapid industrialisation and Modern City planning threatened the morphology and urban grain of these colonial cities. This dissertation has been tried to identify the traditional urban spaces in those cities which were developed by the indigenous people over a long period of time and the colonial spaces which are the transformation of western models of urban spaces constructed to show the political and social relationship between the colonialist and the local population. Examples of the traditional urban spaces whether they are colonial or vernacular, show that they were built and generated according to the tropical climate and culture.

In the final two chapters, with specific references to contemporary Singapore urban spaces, an attempt has been made to explore the climatic and cultural concerns or relevancy of contemporary tropical urban spaces in South East Asia.

The ultimate objective of this dissertation is to examine ways in which a tropical identity of urban space could be manifested through the synthesis of modernity and tradition.