

THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA LECTURE ON
THURSDAY 30TH JULY 2020

“THE TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE OF SRI LANKA”

By Architect C. Anjalendran

The 126th Session of the Monthly Lecture Series of the National Trust - Sri Lanka will be delivered online at 6.30pm on Thursday 30th July 2020.

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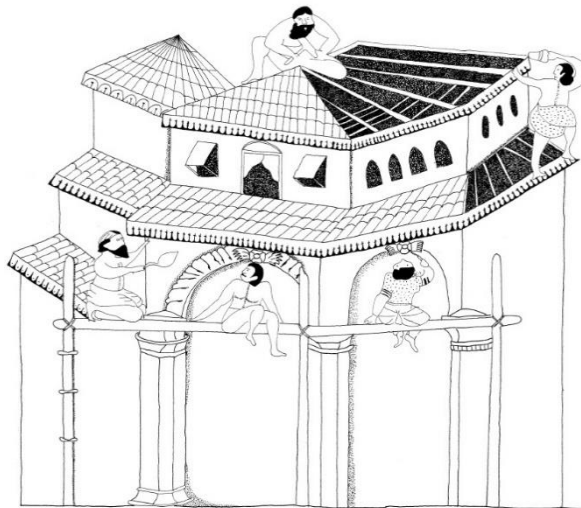
meet.google.com/cwf-irwj-tvz

This presentation describes the rich variety of everyday architecture of the three main ethnic groups in Sri Lanka: the Sinhalese, the Tamils and the Muslims. But it also takes into account the influence of the three colonisers: first the Portuguese from 1527, then the Dutch from 1658 and finally the British from 1796 until they departed in 1948.

The Sinhalese developed a unique tradition of garden design, often involving boulders and their architecture developed a symbiotic relationship with landscape and nature. The Ambalamas, Vihares, Devales and courtyard houses of the Sinhalese will be discussed, as well as the Kovils and hierarchical courtyard houses of the indigenous Tamils and the unique Mosques and houses of the Muslims.

The Solar houses and Catholic Churches of the Portuguese are described, the development of domestic and Reformed Church architecture during the Dutch Period and the succession of styles introduced by the British from Georgian, Indo-Sarascenic, Gothic Revival and so on. Finally, the emergence of a nationally inspired contemporary architectural style around the time of Independence is introduced.

Tragically much of our unique architectural heritage is being allowed to fall into ruin, or is subjected to insensitive restoration or is being demolished in the name of progress, and very few utter words of protest!



Anjalendran was awarded a B.Sc. in Architecture in Sri Lanka (1973), and completed his post-graduate diploma in architecture (1976) and a research masters in space syntax (1979) at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London.

Surrounded by circumstances of war, following his natural inclinations he embarked on projects which were utilitarian, but still retained an aesthetic appeal, perhaps better described as an architecture for everyday life. Over a period of 14 years Anjalendran produced a series of schools and children’s villages for SOS Kinder Dorf International. This work has received international recognition and demonstrated his ability to create low-cost architecture that provides stability and tranquility through the effective organization of space and the creative use of materials.

Anjalendran helped to coordinate & publish the pioneering study of Sri Lankan Architecture:” **“The Architecture of an Island”** by Ronald Lewcock, Barbara Sansoni & Laki Senenayake in 1998. This book is dedicated to him. He also played an important role in the production of the Concept Media monograph on Geoffrey Bawa of 1986

Anjalendran has exhibited and presented his work, as well as his writings on the contemporary architecture of Sri Lanka, internationally. His work has been published as **“Anjalendran-Architect of Sri Lanka “by David Robson** (Tuttle Singapore, 2009). His work has been presented at the Royal Institute of British Architects in March 2010. In October 2011, he has also been honored with “Golden Award for Global Contribution to Architecture” in New Delhi.

More recently in August 2015 **“The Architectural Heritage of Sri Lanka: Measured Drawings from the Anjalendran Studio” by David Robson**, was published Talisman Singapore and Laurence King London

The National Trust – Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures on the last Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and the public. The HNB Sustainability Foundation is the principal sponsor of the events of the National Trust – Sri Lanka.

Further information can be obtained from the Trust Office Tel 2682730 / 0778081214 at the Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology, 407 Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7.