



THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA

DR SENAKE BANDARANAYAKE MEMORIAL LECTURE

“THE GRAND DESIGNS OF ANCIENT LANKA Delving into the technology arising from ancient texts and archaeological remains, with special reference to the Mahathupa”

by

Shereen Amendra

The Monthly Lecture Series No: 166 of the National Trust

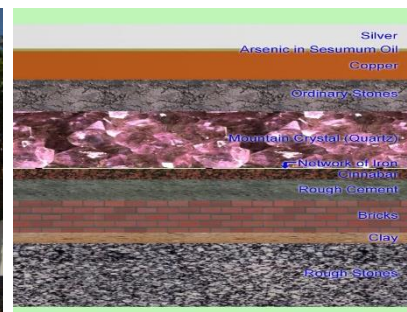
Thursday 28th November 2024 at 6.00 pm

at the Auditorium of the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka,

No. 6, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7.

(For those who join online: <https://youtube.com/live/dfEqxTsXJCQ?feature=share>)

The island of Sri Lanka floats in the Northern part of the vast Indian Ocean, open to sea-farers. Goods and knowledge have traded on our resources and ancient wisdom. Named ‘Sihaladvipa’ translating as ‘Our island home’, the indigenous population were privy to amazing technologies. Anuradhapura was a developed city with various guilds, water availability and gardens laid out by early Kings long before King Devanampiyatissa befriended Ashoka of India, who sent his son as emissary to bring the Dhamma to this island. The island was rich in resources, the best steel smelted many years BC. Quartz, pearls, copper sands of Thambapanni used in mind-boggling technical applications by artisans with expertise of ancient times. This presentation highlights the technologies focusing on historic Anuradhapura and the building of the Mahathupa, the Swarnamali chaitya or Ruvanveliseya, to enshrine the Buddha’s Relics. Presented here is the considerable study and research first presented in 2006 of the intriguing Base Layers, knowledge of draw-down and protection from lightning and more of what I term ‘The Grand Design’ based on ancient texts. The research is partly presented as CG models.



Shereen Amendra is a Chartered Architect and Chartered Landscape Architect. Member of many professional Institutes and Associations, President, Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka, Life Member, The National Trust, Senior Consultant, University of Moratuwa as Program Developer, Lecturer, Examiner, Supervisor and Mentor.

The National Trust – Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures generally on the last working Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and the general public. Further information can be obtained from the Trust Office Tel.0112682730/ 0719566929

