

Addressing the Issues of Liveability in a Traditional City Core- a Case of Thiruvananthapuram

In the process of urbanization, cities are getting overgrown globally. Traditional cities lose their identity in various layers and the core always remains an integrating area with rich fabric. Due to this, the residential areas within the core have become saturated and densified. This led to a loss in the character and heritage of the place at the same time challenging the liveability of the indigenous population. This has been a major challenge and concern to urban designers, as the built environment is having a greater impact on the health and well-being of the people. Due to the challenging liveable conditions, the indigenous population tends to migrate out even though some of them are not able to move out as they have a sense of belonging to the place and also due to their economic conditions.

Traditional city cores are the historic heart of cities with a stable mix of commercial, residential, economy, employment. The residential typology within the old core follows a traditional pattern of development. With the city development, the city core is under greater pressure of transformation due to its proximity to the major business center and other public services, promoting business centers rather than residential due to increase in land value. People from other parts of the city migrants into the area for employment and education. The modernized way of living of the newer generations has also led to a transformation in the residential typology. People are least bothered about the Heritage and culture, which are the valuable assets of a place. The change in the social structure of the core has led to the deterioration of the ethnic character of the place and its heritage. At the same time, the core area becoming obsolete to live due to unregulated city development. The idea behind the thesis is to tackle the issue of liveability and deteriorating traditional core, by preparing a framework based on components of liveability. The aim of the paper is to enhancing the liveability of the place by relooking the functional role of a traditional city core by understanding on the evolution of city core and its community structure, analyzing on how transformation trends in residential typology have affected the liveability and to apply appropriate design model that enhance liveability and retaining the character and heritage of the precinct, by understanding the social dimensions of the place.

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