

# Mapping Urban and Social Space of Cities Depicted in *Sandesha Kavyas*

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Although the study of the spatio-physical identity of the city has a long history in the designing disciplines of architecture and urbanism, it is only since the second half of the last century that a more specialized and in-depth research form was developed. Urban-architectural studies of Carlo Aymonino (1957), Aldo Rossi (1984) and A.V. Moudon (1994), mainly directed to understand the construction and development of residential environments, analyzing relationships between *typologies* of houses and housing complexes on the one hand and *morphologies* of urban ‘tissues’ on the other. This so called ‘typo-morphological’ research is also connected to social aspects of urban space.

In this context, this paper tries to contextualize the individual built object and the urban environment and to analyze the relationship between typologies of built tectonics and morphologies of urban ‘tissues’ of selected cities depicted in *Sandesha Kavyas* belonging to 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. This will be more an overview of interactions between urban form and social space within the built environment of some selected cities belonging to the above period.

The purpose of this ‘socio-cultural understanding of urban form’ is to identify the social quality of residential environments of cities that have been commonly mentioned in *Sandesha Kavyas* such as Kotte, Kelaniya, Devundra etc. For this purpose, the

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techniques of cartographic or sketch analysis and 'urban setting' analysis will be fused. Further, by bringing together the present day urban planning concepts and the ancient urban settings, it tries to understand the spatio-physical identity and the living pattern of the citizens too.

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