

## **ABSTRACT**

This paper examines the pragmatic use of a conceptual approach which is based on the experiential nature of a city in guiding an integrated urban development and conservation policy in that city. In this theoretical approach, illustrated through the case study of the World Heritage City of Kandy in Sri Lanka, city experience is defined in terms of (a) its quintessential dimensions, (b) significant tangible and intangible attributes that evoke those experiential dimensions, and (c) episodic spatial progression through the city. The City Experience thus defined is then applied to review the success and failure of urban conservation and urban design activities in Kandy, and to suggest possible urban design interventions that would enhance both the heritage values and the contemporary needs of the city. The design interventions depicted here are hypothetical in nature, developed as urban design studio exercises at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, yet demonstrate the value of the conceptual approach as an integrated urban design/conservation policy.