ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to study the spatial conception of the residents in the Kreta Ayer Area, their affections towards it, the factors at work in shaping these feelings, and the effects which have been brought about by the Central Renewal Plan on the residents' spatial conceptions towards the area.

By spatial conceptions (outlook), it means the impressions of residents towards the area they live in. The present study enables us to appreciate the residents' feelings of affections or dependence towards this area, and that the factors responsible for such dependence and affections are related to socio-economic factors and the degree of territorial identification. The residents of Kreta Ayer, e.g. hawkers, shop-owners, and workshops occupants, exhibit varying degree of territorial identification and occupational dependence. The area is also ample in shopping and recreation facilities is easy because Kreta Ayer is centrally located. Under the influence of social trends, kinship relations provide only a weak bond among the residents, while friend and neighbour-relationships are a basic source of affections towards the area.

With area renewal, occupations who earn their living from this area are affected in certain ways. There is an increase in residents' economic burdens, a breakdown of social relationships, etc. Whence change will occur in the spatial outlook of the residents towards their area.

The formation and alternation of spatial outlooks must be analysed in conjunction with the socio-economic background of the perceiver and his environment. Due to the perceiver's being influenced by his own knowledge, educational level, social class, age, duration of residence, the mass media, etc., discrepancies are possible between the real world and
the spatial concepts abstracted from the perceived world. But one thing is certain, that spatial conceptions are a reflection of real world.