Abstract

Since its beginning in 2001, the war on terror has affected the whole world. Pakistan has inherited this war. Within these past 12 years I have noticed that terrorism has changed the city of Karachi architecturally. The buildings I used to look at previously have slowly and slowly covered themselves with-in layers and veils. These veils ‘WALLS’ which are purely functional and for the sake of security have taken away the aesthetic appeal of a building they are around. Passing by them I no longer feel the urge to turn on my car seat, just to have another last glimpse of these buildings. The Hotels (Sheraton), Embassy (Saudi, Old and new American consulates), Iqra University etc are now hidden behind high fortified blank walls. Instead these walls stare back at me, telling me “there is nothing to see here”. They are blank, boring structures that fulfil their purpose but provide no aesthetic appeal to the people passing by. As an architecture student this greatly affects the way I look at the city. This dissertation will describe the reasons behind these changes, their impacts on people and Architecture of Karachi itself. The role and response of architects and engineers to design these ‘WALLS’.