

EDITORIAL PREFACE

SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES IN BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN PREPARING FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

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For this issue of ALAM CIPTA, we focus on both built and natural environments concerning the issues of climate change and globalisation. Designing sustainable habitats entails an integrated approach and interdisciplinary knowledge in preparing the sustainable future and fulfilling the needs and requirements of occupants for healthy and quality living.

Topics included in this issue range from fostering strategies for sustainable socio-technical transition and strategies to educating new generation of design professionals who are aware of the emerging sustainability issues. To prepare for future, we need to evaluate our history so that we can avoid some irreversible damage and create innovations in building our city. Therefore, urban and architectural heritage has also been of our concern in this issue.

Shahhosseini *et al.* (2014) advocated the effectiveness of non-visual factors in making place attachment. They adopted the Nominal Group Technique to determine more salient information regarding availability of non-visual attributes in the urban environment. They claimed that their results could help the designers and policy makers propose applicable and appropriate

combination of the elements in the urban area such as small urban parks to establish a more successful environment.

Kaymaz Koca (2014) discussed role of different actors who constructed and affected the cities and their urban processes, which constitute the cities and described them as the 'actants' of the cities. She argued that analysing the effects of the actants on the urban processes of a city can be crucial in terms of defining a way for understanding this city. From this point of view Kaymaz Koca attempted to understand and evaluate İstanbul and to explore the actants constructing the urban processes of İstanbul, to trace/reveal their actual effects on the urban processes of İstanbul, and to confront the urban potential of İstanbul.

In another paper from Turkey, Yedekci Arslan (2014) asserted that architecture is being influenced by many subjects of natural and social sciences. According to her, while many subject hold an indisputable impact on architecture, biological sciences is currently dominating the era and it is totally comprehensible for architects to observe, learn and copycat the natural phenomena on behalf of a better living. Yedekci Arslan therefore

aimed to understand these design methods under the name of biomimicry and biomimetic architecture by reviewing the literature and research work done and examines the approaches under three categories like; biomorphological design, biomimetic design and biodesign as pointing out the differences between each approaches.

From a slightly different perspective, Yerliyurt and Manisa (2014) focused on Western Anatolia as an olive and olive oil production geography for 2600 years, which accommodates hundreds of traditional olive oil mills with the characteristics of industrial heritage in different scales. They argued that the absence of academic comprehensive study provided them to make a research on the building stock and their characteristics. They studied and documented 70 of 127 traditional olive oil mills. In this paper they focused on sustainability of building stock traditional (olive oil mills) olive culture and tourism activity in Ayvacık Region as an important olive oil production geography.

Finally, Benkari and Boudidah (2014) ascertained that recent researches about architectural education in the Arab and Islamic regions identify the fact that current programs are compromised by course content that is disconnected from their socio-cultural contexts. In their paper, they reported on the results of study, which investigated architectural curricula taught in the UAE, their strengths and weaknesses with reference to local cases. Their paper offers a positional interpretation of examples taken from the Gulf region and the Islamic world at large. They also argued that this system in UAE faces most of the challenging issues of architectural education in the region.

ALAM CIPTA editorial team welcomes submissions in the form of original papers, review papers, case studies, research reports, commentaries, technical notes, book reviews and conference news. We call on the support of academics and practitioners to review papers for the journal. We invite all readers and potential contributors to join ALAM CIPTA, sharing and disseminating knowledge and experience for a better world through built environment.

We appreciate continuous support from contributors, reviewers and readers for the success of this journal. We believe that knowledge and insights presented in this issue will benefit readers and become impetus for a broad interdisciplinary knowledge on sustainable design.

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