

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Five articles are published in this ALAM CIPTA and the articles raise various issues ranging from urban designs, therapeutic landscapes, thermal landscapes and product design process. These articles are received, reviewed and process according to submission and production timeframe rather than editorial preferences. However, emphasis of the articles is still on how to produce design that is crucial for our sustainability because it is the key problem in regards to our quality of living and life.

The article by Shureen Faris and Chong Yee Er provides interesting analysis of the literatures and design guidelines for elderly facilities. The analysis provides us an insight how we often overlooked senior groups needs and preferences. The senior citizens population is growing and many countries are actually struggle to provide the best design practice for them and this paper provides almost complete literature review and analysis regarding elderly or senior design. Eliani Aziana, Norsidah and Faziawati explore issues related to the water front area in the city. Water front as one of the important spaces in the city especially in the historical city was often neglected and the paper examine if the waterfront can be revitalized from place attachment perspective. Meanwhile Ebrahimi provides critical analysis on the evolution of urban squares and plazas in Iran especially in Tabriz. By using historical analysis and narratives, he posits the understanding about how urban plazas and squares can changes overtime according to politics and economics pressures.

Lim Tsun Jet, Mohd Fairuz and Asraf Abdul Rahman concern with urban heat island effects due to uncontrolled development and they try to expand our understanding about the roles of groundcovers in controlling surface temperature; the roles we often thought only done best by the trees. The authors test 10 types of groundcovers and the study provides promising results by showing how groundcovers can actually reduce surface temperature significantly. The results posit that even though ground covers may look simple but their roles are huge in reducing urban temperature thus increasing our urban areas thermal comfort. Golnar Kiani, Rahinah Ibrahim and Kalinah test “Kenaf” as materials for potential bio composite materials especially for rapid manufacturing (RM) process. The idea is to explore the potential of natural fiber to replace synthetic materials that may not good for environment.

ALAM CIPTA accepts articles that concern with architecture and design related to the process, methods, techniques, practices and theories in expanding our understanding to ensure sustainability. All articles in this issue provide very relevant knowledge how can we plan and design our built environment and product better. On behalf of the editors, I would like to thanks all the authors and reviewers who had work very hard. Your contribution is very valuable as it help the advancement and dissemination of knowledge to “cipta” [create] a better world. We encourage your feedbacks at alamciptaeditor@upm.edu.my and thank you for your continuous support of ALAM CIPTA.

Editors in Chief