

Editorial

ISVS e journal is moving on now into the 3rd issue of the volume 2 and I am happy to be able to produce it once more with some very interesting papers in a wide variety of topics related to the vernacular. Especially interesting are the two papers by Marwa and Wasana on 'Malambanan Diaries' and 'Performing Vernacular' which deviate from the usual approach of describing the traditional characteristics of vernacular buildings.

I believe if vernacular is to have a greater value and relevance in the contemporary societies, our focus and studies need to be varied and examine numerous other aspects rather than only the traditions and characteristics of vernacular buildings. In fact, our general perception of traditions being always wholesome and meaningful is often over-played, and there is a need to be more critical in our approach to their examinations.

In this sense, our next ISVS seminar must take a more daring approach to its theme and set the stage preferably for a radically new—a more critical— examination of the vernacular settlements. I recall the statement of Marcel Wellinga at the ISVS 6 keynote, which claimed that there is no need for the term 'vernacular' to study the human settlements: a provocative thought that may need to be re-examined in a more wholesome setting.

ISVS e journal needs to move on. It has all the support of the ISVS secretariat and the participants of the seminars. I must thank all those who sent in their papers, although many yet remain at the stages of redevelopment subsequent to the reviewers comments. Only a few could be brought up here and hopefully the others could be afforded the opportunities in the next issues to share their research findings.

In fact, the editorial management may need to undergo change soon too, where I may move away from its editorship leaving it in the hands of those who are more capable than I am, to take it forward. Nevertheless, I cannot refrain from thanking all the members of the editorial review panel and the contributors in responding to the many demands I made in compiling this issue, which I believe has taken it further; a step towards becoming a meaningful vehicle for the dissemination of knowledge on the large repository of vernacular settlements

Ranjith Dayaratne, editor-2013.