

EDITORIAL

ISVS-9: ICCCS 1 held in November 2018, Indonesia, has had a reverberating effect on the ISVS e journal. With a very large number of participants opting to publish in the ISVS e journal, its secretariat has been busy re-reviewing the conference papers, bringing them up to the higher standards the journal has always aspired to maintain. Thus, the ISVS e journal now has decided to publish four issues per year starting in 2019. This has been even more enhanced by the fact that our special editor, Velika Ivkowska has also compiled an issue entirely devoted to the Vernacular Architecture of the Balkens. That issue will come after this and we are further encouraged by our understanding that soon, an issue will be devoted to the African sub-continent; specially Ethiopia.

Thus, this issue of the ISVS e journal re-affirms the new direction we promised in the ISVS e journal Vol. 6 no 1: to publish four issues in 2019 and maintain that momentum as we grow. All papers published were first presented at ISVS-9, subsequently re-reviewed and revised to bring up to the standards expected of the ISVS e journal. As can be seen, the numbers per issue have increased and many new perspectives are emerging.

The first paper explores Iranian nomadic housing and draws our attention to the vernacular architecture of the people on the move. Once upon a time, all people on earth were on the move and settled life came long afterwards. Although much of the vernacular of today are focused on this settled life styles and architecture, the architecture on the move has not completely stopped and there exists at least some cultures who are carrying on with such life styles. The paper on Iranian nomadic housing by Najemh Hassas and Justyna Borucka of Poland is thus an extremely interesting new perspective that redefines vernacularity and expands our understanding of the lived world.

The paper on traditional settlement architecture of the Batakese Toba Tribe and clan kinship in the village of Hutaginjang, North Sumatra, Indonesia, takes us back to Indonesia, where every island has its own unique vernacular style of architecture and life styles. In this paper, Rumiati Rosaline Tobing, and Grace Mananda Hutabarat explore how the clan kinship in a specific tribal group contributes to the formation of space and architecture in the island of Sumatra.

Indah Widiastuti and Feni Kurniati in contrast, examine the transformations taking place in Sumatra, in the paper titled, modernization and vernacularity in the tradition of Minangkabau architecture of the West Sumatra in Indonesia. In this paper, Indah and Feni attempt to define Vernacularity theoretically and understand how globalization and modernization are making in-routes to the core cultures of the communities there.

Alexandra Florea and Mirjana Lozanovska, of Deakin University, Australia, contribute to this issue by exploring the ways and means by which meanings of the vernacular in Rimetea and Roşia Montană can be maintained. They aptly point out the existence of politics in the construction of meaning and how they are subject to subtle yet decisive manipulations of the social forces.

Change and transformation prompted by establishments as well as the changing behaviour of people is a popular discourse in vernacular studies and this is further confirmed by Nitin Sahu, Shivani Paliwal, and Kasturi Kalwar when they examine the abandonment of traditional practices by the Bhariya Tribe, Patalkot, India. They are pro-active and in this paper suggest a model for regeneration and sustaining of these traditions for the betterment of the people themselves.

In the final paper on travelling architecture: vanishing heritage of Gypsy caravans in Poland, we returned to the issue of the vernacular architecture of the nomads, yet in a different style. Lucyna Nyka, and Jakub Szczepański draw our attention to the now almost lost, gypsy caravans of Poland, which were a distinctive way of life and produced an interesting culture and architecture. The caravans, just like the nomad's houses were unique human productions that sustained values, attitudes and cultures that enriched the variety of human existence.

The papers in this issue no doubt bring us fascinating insights into the vernacular of the world.

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