

EDITORIAL

In the 2020, ISVS e journal will make a new initiative; to publish four issues within the year on vernacular settlements and also publish two issues generally related to the built environments. This has been necessitated by the intense interests demonstrated by the many academics to publish in the ISVS e journal. This is indeed a healthy development. With many papers being received now even outside the main focus of vernacular settlements, it seems that the journal should see that the other issues not necessarily within the confines of the vernacular yet relevant to our understanding of settlements could be discussed. This issue however is on vernacular settlements.

In this issue, five papers have been published, on numerous aspects of the vernacular settlements. The paper by Beldjilali Said et al present how architectural elements of ornamentations of colonial towns in Algeria have contributed to enrich the architecture and identity of Algeria. The paper offers a global reading of the façades, considered as support for the architectural ornaments and the focuses on an analysis of ornament firstly associated with its support and then separated.

In the second paper, Kemas Ridwan Kurniawan et al discuss the spatial changes in the Korowai traditional settlements. Korowai is one of the traditional tribes in Papua, Indonesia. For centuries, the lives of Korowai people have been synonymous with the forest. This tribe builds its dwellings on the top of high trees known as Bolufs which have undergone tremendous transformations due to rapid urbanization and modernization. This paper discusses the effects of the resettlement of Korowai dwellings into kampongs, through socio-cultural and morphological aspects of space. It concludes that resettlement efforts need to consider the identity and cultural roots of the Korowai Tribe, so as the link between their current Boluf and resettlement locations in the kampung are maintained. Furthermore, there is a need for sustainable guidance for the Korowai tribe through community development.

In contrast, Nitin Sahu et al propose a regenerative model for reviving traditional practices by examining the case of Bhariya Tribe, Patalkot, India. In this paper, the authors assess the situation and propose a model with modification in construction techniques and material usage to devise strategies that address the revival of the dying traditional knowledge system to enhance the socio-economic conditions of villagers.

In the next paper, Alexandra Florea and Mirjana Lozanovska discuss the politics and meaning of maintaining the vernacular in Rimetea and Roşia Montană, in Romania. This paper brings forth the importance of conducting architectural fieldwork complemented by research on the history and culture of such places to unravel their inherent meanings. It offers an in-depth analysis of the rural environment in the twenty-first century through the examination of signage.

Anna Pudianti, Lucia Asdra Rudwiarti and Vincentia Reni Vitasurya on the other hand examine the role of gender in the transformation of vernacular settlements in Indonesia. Deriving lessons from Brayut Rural Tourism, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, the authors demonstrate how women as educators in the family can have a role in spreading the preservation of cultural values. In this case, naturally, the Javanese women in Brayut have the motivation to maintain an ancestral heritage that can be a family pride, as well as pride as a Javanese who has distinctive values embodied in a vernacular house.

Undeniably, these are significant lessons for those of us who are interested in the study of vernacular settlements and how we may help sustain the values that have informed civilization to continue and progress with meaningful social values.

Arch. Dr. Sunil Abeyasinghe,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.