

EDITORIAL

Despite the alarming spread of the Covid-19 and the perturbed communities around the world, academics appear to be surviving and doing well, as can be seen from the contributions being received at the ISVS journal secretariat for the ISVS e journal. In this issue, we begin with a few selected publications that dealt with the theme of the 2020 conference held in India, related to domestication and domesticity. The world has begun to re-recognize the value of home and domestic life and the conference aimed at seeking deeper insights into the domesticity of vernacular settlements.

In this context, the first paper by Monalisa Bharadwaj & Sudha Kumari at the Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore, India, examine the spatio-temporal efficacy of historic street forms in preserving domesticity of vernacular settlements in Ulsoor, Bangalore, India. They conclude that the streets have tremendous potential to preserve the domestic scale and pedestrian character of the vernacular settlements, and thus offer opportunities to device planning decisions sensitive to the cause of socio-cultural context of vernacular settlements.

In a similar vein, Elita Nuraeny, Widya Laksmi Larasati, Khusnul Hanifati, Muhammad Iqbal, & Kemas Ridwan Kurniawan of Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia, take a deep look at the kitchen as the heart of Indonesian houses to understand how re-domestication has taken place during the Covid-19 pandemic. They demonstrate how kitchens in Indonesian houses today face the challenge of accommodating a culture of complex cuisine within a limited space and home-bound pandemic lifestyle. However, the authors also propose as an option an architectural design approach to face these challenges.

In sharp contrast, Lucia Asdra Rudwiarti, Anna Pudianti, & Stanislaus Marcel Adiwinata, of Universitas Atma Jaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, examine the ways in which inspiring user motivation through oral traditions is necessary in conserving vernacular houses. They take an example of the Brayut tourist village, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, to demonstrate that saving traditional Brayut Village houses is more effective and operative when inherited through the family kinship using Javanese philosophical values of verbal messages. They point out that reverence to the ancestors is crucial in this understanding and practice.

Culture is a theme that is invariably connected to vernacular settlements. Naniek Widayati Priyomarsono of the Universitas Tarumanagara, Jakarta, Indonesia, look at the influences of culture on the spatial development of the Juwana sub-district of Pati, Central Java, Indonesia. The paper divulges that six urban space patterns have emerged in Juwana and that the community structure has affected Juwana's urban space pattern heavily. The paper offers descriptive accounts of these patterns.

Djoko Murdowo, and Allicia Sandra Meirissa of Telkom University, Bandung, Indonesia and Nadia Sigi Prameswari of Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia, focus their attention to the interiors of restaurants to find the relevance and appropriateness of using the Chinese Yin-Yang concept in creating comfort and spatial experiences. They take an interior design for a Chinese restaurant in Indonesia to demonstrate how the concept is well articulated there to learn lessons that can be utilized in creating many other similar places.

Finally, Naima Benkari of Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, Seyedh Mahboobeh Jamali of Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia, Jean Martin Caldieronc of Florida Atlantic University, USA and Nader Ale Ebrahim of Alzahra University, Tehran, provide an insight into the nature and spread of vernacular studies across the world through a Bibliometric study. They reveal very interesting findings: (a) that research on vernacular is not confined within the humanities anymore, rather, it has extended to include the field of "hard" sciences as well (b) that there is a shift in the center of production of scientific literature, about the vernacular architecture, from North America to Asia.

Altogether, this issue of the ISVS e-journal provides us with yet another set of interesting perspectives on vernacular: in terms of domesticity as it prevails, and re-domestication during the pandemic, as well as the influence of culture, and the use of Yin yang concept in interior spaces to create whole some spatial experiences. Most important of these is also the final paper that offers a comprehensive analysis of vernacular studies that show us where the gaps of knowledge exist so that we may focus on those perspectives in the years to come.

Yet another insightful and convincing reports on research related to vernacular settlements.

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