

## EDITORIAL

The next ISVS is now on the way to be held at Navrachna University of India at the end of September after some lapses due to Covid-19. At the same time, the ISVS e-journal is receiving an increased interest from those who research into the vernacular settlements. Therefore, this issue has 15 papers.

The first paper by Mahsa Kordhaghi, Hossein Zolfaghari, & Mehmet Inceoglu of the Eskisehir Technical University, in Turkey offer us insights into the climatic sensitivity and architecture of traditional houses in Iran during the Qajar Dynasty (1795-1925). It examines the cities of Tabriz, with an alpine climate, and Yazd, with a steppe climate and conclude that the historical houses of Tabriz are 50% warmer than the outside temperature in winter, and the historical houses of Yazd are 50% colder than the outside temperature in summer. As a result, the city consumes 50% less energy during the peak energy seasons: ample evidence of the relevance of vernacular settlements for the sustainability of the world.

On the other hand, Lluís i Ginovart, Josep, Lluís-Teruel, Cinta, & Gomez-Val, Ricardo look at the vernacular constructions in the Spanish Pyrenees: the deformation process of Vall d'Aran churches. The paper concludes that the buildings with different construction phases and large deformations have been developed over six centuries, and have over 7% geometric deformations from their original shapes. The value of this research lies in the study of the geometric deformations of churches through statistical methods.

Bhanu Rizfa Hakim, Prasasto Satwiko, B. Sumardiyanto & Natalia Suwarno show the effect of nighttime lighting on the open spaces with heritage values, by looking at the South Square of the Yogyakarta Palace. The study has found that artificial nighttime lighting has led to youth gathering spaces with different activities and durations. The patterns created unconsciously also have a deep meaning in Javanese Hindu culture. This phenomenon according to the paper, is absent during the daytime.

Nadia Sigi Prameswari, Agus Cahyono, Slamet Subiyantoro, & Eko Haryanto examine the sign system at the Borobudur Temple: Effectiveness during the Covid-19 Pandemic. This study concludes that the sign system helps employees to monitor the tourists so that they did not over-crowd leading to health issues.

Eko Haryanto, Mujiyono, & Nadia Sigi Prameswari look at a rather unusual thing: a door. They examine the carved motif development on a Kudus Gebyok door, in Indonesia. The paper shows that the design of the Kudus gebyok door engages carving motifs. Several motifs have been developed and applied to the design of the Kudus gebyok door, namely leaf stalks, shells, flowers, kala, nanasan, and sulur-suluran.

Vicky Lalramsangi, Lalmawipua Kiangte, & Andrew Lallianthanga look at the manifestation of cultural and settlement patterns of vernacular Mizo villages in modern neighborhoods of Mizoram, India. They emphasize on the importance of spatial layout of vernacular settlements and its subsequent cultural traditions in creating a strong community culture, which further allows to brace itself from crisis.

In the next paper, Chukwujindu K.E., Kasiraman.G, & Neha Bansal look at the thermal comfort in tropical high-rise buildings. They carry out a review of published research and conclude that there is a need for further scientific investigations in the light of existing research gaps.

Arshia Khajooria, Hazarika, Anoop Kumar Sharma, Karthik Mohan, & Naveen Prashar examine the socio-cultural and environmental analysis of vernacular residential designs of houses of Jammu, India. They conclude that the vernacular houses act as a macrocosm for families to live comfortably and perform daily activities without having to interact with the outside world.

Attention of Chaya Y Chavan & Sheeba Chandar has gone to a very popular topic: the relationship between house forms and culture. They investigate the relationship between the socio-economic, political and cultural profiles of the people and house-forms at Sawantwadi, Maharashtra, India during the British era. They conclude that the traditional house-forms in Sawantwadi have strong connections with socio-economic - political & cultural profiles of the residents and that it has enabled effective, efficient, economical and user friendly house forms. Srinivas Daketi, and Ramesh Srikonda are also interested in this relationship. They have examined the house forms and transformations by closely looking into the houses in rural Andhra Pradesh, India. They conclude that restructuring the housing policies related to design of rural housing is needed.

S.A. Riana Adicandra, Josef Prijotomo, and Bambang Sugiharto look at the concept of sacredness of the prayer hall at Vihara Mendut, and conclude that sacredness presents the essence of the "architectural

brilliance” of Javanese locality, namely the “true I” which refers to “non-self”. There is nothing permanent and all conditions are always inter-related to Java, Indonesia.

Bambang Sulistyono, Andrik Purwasito, Wardo, & Titis Srimuda Pitana look at the representation of European and Javanese culture in the Catholic church of St. Antonius Purbayan Surakarta, Indonesia. They conclude that the Catholic religion represented in the Church can adapt to the Muslim community by uniting the local culture of the people (Javanese) and European culture that developed during the Dutch colonial period.

Yunita Dwi Adisaputri, Iwan Sudradjat, & Indah Widiastuti examine Sérén Taun and Sura’an rituals as cultural practices to maintain social cohesiveness and spiritual solidarity in the AKUR Community of Kuningan, West Java, Indonesia. They conclude that the paired rituals intensely reaffirm the close connection and inter-dependence between the Center and the Satellites and re-assert the collective commitment of the community to safeguard the cultural traditions and heritage.

Finally, in keeping with the new policy of the ISVS e-journal to accommodate general papers on settlements and spaces, Saad Fawzi Al-Nuaimi and Wasan Maki Mohammed of Iraq comes out with a novel idea of preventive spaces in the light of the current health care crisis of the built-environment. He proposes a strategy for designing urban spaces to deter the pandemics by means of creating what he calls “preventive spaces”.

In the same spirit, Eiman M. Al-Musawi, & Nawfal J. Rzqoo present the effect of using noise barriers on the urban appearance in cities. They provide interesting Insights from residential complexes in Baghdad, Iraq.

Overall, this issue of the ISVS e-journal—as it always is—has been a collection of very meaningful studies in to the vernacular settlements bringing out insights hitherto not available. The authors work is undeniably admirable.

**Dr. Ranjith Dayaratne**  
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