

# EDITORIAL

It is encouraging to note that the ISVS e-journal has received an increased interest from those who research into the human settlements and architecture. Therefore, this issue has 25 papers. These papers, numerous examine the built-environmental issues in India, Morocco, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, and Kazakhstan. Interestingly, ISVS e-journal is now spreading its wings across Asia, from East to the West, in as much the Asian School of Architecture, which it is being sponsored by since September 2022 has started to operate in greater Asia, originating from Melbourne, Australia.

Issues are numerous and range from the issues of the vernacular as well as the issues of sustainability and cities. In terms of the vernacular settlements, they range from the examination of forms and spaces of the colonial settlement of the former plantation slaves in Depok Lama of Indonesia; New variations of Sundanese architecture in the City: The Case of Kampung Kranggan Vernacular Settlement in Indonesia; Dynamics of the sacred-profane forms and meanings in the Kalang House Architecture, Yogyakarta, Indonesia; The living house concept in the vernacular houses in Indonesia: the Case of Pendung Hiang, Kerinci-Jambi, Indonesia; the Javanese-Dutch coexistence in the Yogyakarta City Center (1755-1942); The spatial patterns of Javanese settlements as the representation of patron-client politics: nobles, Ulemas, and merchants' settlements; sacred-profane concept of the Kalang house architecture which still survives with the sacred meaning on the back (dalem); Interaction spaces in the segregation of settlement infrastructure in Kampung Kulitan Semarang; to the examination of the phenomenon of Javanese relatives' spaces in Dusun Banaran: The suburban of Semarang City, Indonesia.

These papers in general divulge the nuances of the manifestations of culture and traditions as well as unique practices that had existed in the vernacular settlements. Interestingly, there appears to be a country-specific orientation in these studies in that they often come from authors in either India or Indonesia.

In contrast, there are studies such as how to apply Neuroscience in understanding the Astana Gunungjati pilgrimage tour, in Cirebon, Indonesia, which also suggest that the researchers there are breaking new grounds, exploring the vernacular related practices couched more in science.

In terms of architecture and urban design, there are studies that examine how the employment of the elements of artifacts in the Sunan Pandanarang Great Mosque, Indonesia could improve Kendhi Bayat Design; The role of urban flux in re-shaping "the private for the public" concept in the traditional courtyards in Iraq; the problems and prospects of urban developments in Mandi Town of Himachal Pradesh, India; The sense of place of the Batik Trade Center in the Arab Village Sugihwaras Pekalongan, Indonesia and the current knowledge on the impact of outdoor school environments on the students' overall development as well as the idea of popular cities as self sustainable reserves.

Most notably, some have paid attention to the environment- behaviour issues such as post occupancy evaluations in Jordon, Amman. They look at the adaptive reuse of the old structures into heritage hotel buildings and argue that the government should consider proper oversight during historic building restoration, as well as periodic monitoring of boutique hotels to ensure regular repair and upkeep.

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 as well as the human settlements in general bringing out insights hitherto not available. A new trend however has to be observed. That is the popularity of the journal in territories such as Iraq, Morocco and Khazakstan. We are most encouraged by their contributions; indeed, we are also thankful to our usual authors contributing from India and Indonesia.

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