

EDITORIAL

With only a month to go for the ISVS-12 to be held in Thailand in November 2024, the journal is receiving more papers that it used to did before. Obviously, the interest in vernacular is growing up.

In this issue, the papers numerously examine the built-environmental issues in Indonesia, India, Northern Cyprus, Jordan and Thailand. They all deal with numerous aspects of the built-environments and demonstrate that the issues of our surroundings are complex and need to be examined through multiple lenses. Issues are numerous and range from the vernacular as well as the issues of urbanization, land subsidence and community adaptations in the vernacular settlements. In more specific terms, the papers in this issue have focused on the following.

Shaila Naaz & Ar. Samiuddin examine the impact of urbanization on the erosion of identity of historic buildings in vernacular settlements. They offer insights from Kalan Masjid, Old Delhi, India. They argue that proper guidelines are needed to control rapid urbanization near historical buildings. K. Marliya et al. examine thermal adaptations of houses in vernacular settlements bringing insights from the diverse climates of Tiruchirapalli, India. They contribute valuable insights into adaptive behaviors, sustainable architecture, and energy-efficient practices in challenging climates, with implications for enhancing residents' thermal comfort, reducing energy consumption, and preserving cultural heritage.

In contrast, Amos Setiadi et al. examine the quality of public spaces in vernacular settlements bringing insights from Kotagede, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. They show that the social activities of Kotagede settlement were driven by the ease of accessibility and amenities. On the other hand, R. Siti Rukayah et al. bring to us issues related to land subsidence in vernacular settlements bringing assessments from the heritage buildings in Semarang, Indonesia. They show that the original levels there have been located approximately 100 cm under the present levels, which is alarming.

Hanan Muneer Al Sheikh examine a unique phenomenon which usually is not identified as being vernacular. Her focus is on the interplay of memory, identity and culture in portrait photography as a visual repository of vernacular memory. In this sense, she brings great insights from Jordan, which broadens the concept of vernacular.

Rusma Noortyani, Fatchul Mu'in & Rizky Amelia examine a well-known issue of traditions of weddings. They examine symbolic communications in the traditional wedding rituals of the Banjar Ethnic community of Indonesia and point out that the wedding ritual employs three languages (Banjarese, Indonesian, and Arabic). Banjarese is used to express local wisdom; Indonesian is used as a formal language and Arabic is used as a language, making the procession of akad nikah valid following the Islamic teachings. What a complex ritual for a wedding.

Kirti Nishant Nikam & Srushti Tiwari examine a simpler issue. They look at the characteristics of courtyards in the vernacular houses of Gondia in Maharashtra, India which are complex and varied. Nani Sriwardani et al. examine community adaptations to create "inside and outside" cultural spaces bringing insights from the Dukuh traditional village in Indonesia. They argue that a cultural construction is done by maintaining customs in the sacred area (the inside) while still allowing the profane area (the outside) to adjust to the development of science and technology. Herlyna Herlyna & Nanda Saputra examine the revitalizations of community-based oral traditions in Gowa, South Sulawesi in Indonesia, while Monzer Jaghliit & Çilen Erçin looat how to resolve the crisis of lack of support to vernacularity of urban spaces. They offer lessons from the approaches to urban design in Northern Cyprus.

Finally, Raksiri Kaewtawee et al. examine the Vernacular shophouse façades on Ratchadamnoen Road in Southern Thailand. They offer a taxonomic study to produce a dataset for AI modelling. Needless to say that this issue is rich with great new insights into the vernacular. We are thankful to the authors.

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