

EDITORIAL

As we claimed in the last issue, the ISVS e-journal is certainly on a new path in 2023. On the one hand, the journal is now moving to be published every month. On the other hand, we are also developing collaborations with international conferences, who want to publish papers presented at other conferences other than the ISVS itself. However, the journal will not let its quality down. The usual process of blind peer reviews will take place despite the fact that the conference organizers themselves review them before the presentations.

In this issue, the papers numerously examine the human settlement issues in India, Indonesia, and Iraq. Interestingly, ISVS e-journal is consolidating across Asia, from East to the West. The papers in this issue have focused on the examination of issues as follows.

Adi Santosa et al., examine the material and cultural values in Joglo Architecture in Indonesia and show us that the process of creating Joglo is based on two concurrent knowledge systems: traditional wood and stone construction technology and the knowledge of Javanese religiosity originating from the Hindu cultural values. Similarly, Maria Sudarwani et al. look at the architectural character of Chinese houses in the Semarang Chinatown, Indonesia. They conclude that architecture of the early shop houses of the Chinatown has achieved a higher human comfort by using locally available building and construction materials. Amna Bassim & Ghada Al-slik draw attention to the Concept of Home as Manifested in the Vernacular Houses in Baghdad, Iraq, while Anityas Dian Susanti et al. talk about symbiotic interactions in the multi-ethnic vernacular settlements in Semarang, Indonesia. At the same time, Hassan Gbran & Suzanna Ratih Sari ascertain the visual impact of modern constructions on the old cities in Indonesia. They look at the peoples' perceptions of the Lawang Sewu building in Semarang. Priya Tyagi et al. present the types of rural vernacular settlements in India make proposals towards creating inclusive villages.

For Sri Sunarti, Sudaryono & Eugenius Pradipto, the issue is about the traditions of creating architectural ornaments. They examine the semiotics of the 20th century ornament changes at the Pagelaran of the Yogyakarta Javanese Palace in Indonesia. Laura M. Aukhadiyeva examine the traditional mashrabiya and their re-inventions for cooling the air and constructing identity in the contemporary architecture of the East. In the meantime, Hanin Karim Ibrahim & Susan Abed Hassan offer us insights into the design strategies employed to achieve thermal comfort in traditional religious buildings in Iraq while Sarah Mohammed Jameel & Shaimaa Hameed Hussien offer us vernacular perceptions from Iraq on urban parks as green enhancements of images of cities.

An interesting new development was witnessed in the papers of this issue, where the researchers have begun to employ digital technologies in research: recording analysis and interpretation of built-environments, especially the vernacular. In this regard Sumaiya applies deep learning and convolutional neural network system to identify historic buildings. She presents this idea with a training model to record visual character of some of the historically valuable yet damaged buildings by demonstrating how it has been used at the "Little China" Building in Central Java, Indonesia. Similarly, Wahyu shows us a model that uses an IT-based Representation and Visualization of the Batavia City Development from the 16th to Early 20th century.

We cannot ignore the fact that issues such as the traditional mashrabiya and their modern interpretations have received serious attention, as Laura points out how the modern mashrabiya only imitate the forms and do not perform the function of cooling the interiors. In fact, she challenges the modern architects to be as innovative as the traditional builders have been.

Overall, this issue of the ISVS e-journal—as it always is—has been a collection of very meaningful studies into the vernacular settlements as well as the human settlements in general bringing out insights hitherto not available. We are thankful to all the contributors.

Dr. Ranjith Dayaratne
Editor-in-Chief