

EDITORIAL

As we said in our last editorial, the ISVS e-journal is now very well consolidated as a monthly publication, with a good number of high quality papers being received almost every other day. Some papers of course need a fair amount of revisions and refinements but thank to all the authors, and the reviewers, we have been able to bring them up to the standards expected.

In this issue, the papers numerously examine the built-environmental issues in India, Indonesia, Iraq, and Thailand. Interestingly, ISVS e-journal is consolidating across Asia, from East to the West, and new papers are being received from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia too. There, vernacular exist in abundance and issues of architecture have just begun to be researched seriously. Needless to say, ISVS e-journal is an apt platform for the exchange of research findings with the wider academic community.

First, Andi Hildayanti, & Wasilah Sahabuddin examine the tectonics of the vernacular: The study concludes that the technique and the material combination method create a rigid construction character and interconnection between each construction elements. Piles positioned with similar length and size creates a pattern character with horizontal and vertical lines and the grid, presents harmony and a well-ordered impression. In contrast, Dede Pramayoza & Fresti Yuliza come to us from theatre. Examining a village spatial planning strategy for the Pasa Harau Festival in West Sumatra, Indonesia, they bring in a new idea about the performance of drama; from Dramaturgy to Curation. They show that curating the performance space has become an essential tool for organizing shared spaces within the Nagari Harau, which resembles dramaturgy.

Seyedehsamaneh Fatemi & Sarena Abdullah talks about an entirely different issue: the expressions in Art. They examine the emergence of social issues in contemporary Iranian art and show that social and political conditions and technological progress are important factors in the emergence of social issues in contemporary Iranian art. Furthermore, in a society where direct criticism is not possible, art has become a means to critique issues indirectly. Sugiyanto, Tjetjep et al. look at a new idea: the socio-cultural capital. They examine the role of the socio-cultural capital of Mulyoharjo craftsmen in the preservation of Jepara carving arts in Indonesia and argue that the existence of socio-cultural capital can provide harmony, opportunity, and continuity in the carving industry in Indonesia.

Sidhi Wiguna Teh, et al. present a very controversial idea. Examining the dialectics of the Akashic Field and Qi related to the conceptions of space in vernacular architecture, Vastu Shastra and Fēng Shuǐ, they argue that that architecture, vastu shastra and fēng shuǐ can work together with contemporary architectural theories to produce meaningful and wholesome architecture. Food for thought indeed.

Rama Hardiansyah, et al. take us to Indonesia, specifically to Semarang. They look at the rejuvenation and revitalization of the old city of Semarang in Indonesia, which is flooded and chaotic, and argue that revitalizing the Semarang old town area should be seen not only as a world cultural heritage recognized by the UNESCO but also as a mechanism to revive the activities and restructure the old city. They argue that institutional strengthening and marketing must be increased, so that it can elevate the image of the Kota Lama area of Semarang.

Interestingly, Sourav Zaman & Nafia Nawreen Ahmed look at the impact of street vendors on social sustainability of public places in the case of Khulna city in Bangladesh. As they argue that the performance of street vendors ameliorate the overall social sustainability criteria of those areas by bringing people together and add new dimensions to the streets while extending the boundaries of the public places. Dwita Hadi Rahmi, & Shabrina Tamimi take this idea to look at the villages in Borobudur in Indonesia as cultural landscapes. They point out that traditional Javanese architecture still continues in terms of the functions and the shapes of the houses, including the shape of the roof. Nevertheless, the emergence of new buildings is a threat to the declining quality of the village.

Thongtep Sirisoda, Rawinan Loymek focus on one house type in Thailand. They examine the ways in which reflecting spatial identity and values through local architecture happens by looking closely at the Thai-Yuan House in the Saraburi Province, in Thailand. This brings us to the values

that are invested in landscapes, architecture, buildings and houses. Ahmed Hashim Hameed Al-eqaby, and Tabark Hussain Ali elaborate on this idea of values. They look at how sustainability of values in heritage buildings can be evaluated. He offers us a framework, a theoretical basis and real evaluations, bringing insights from Iraq.

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. A new trend however has to be observed. That is the popularity of the journal in territories such as Iraq and now Thailand, in addition to Indonesia and India. We are most encouraged by their contributions; indeed, we are also thankful to our usual authors contributing.

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Editor-in-Chief