

## EDITORIAL

This issue of ISVS e-journal comes at ease with nine papers being published. Despite the fact that the journal has experienced some issues with indexing, it is heartening that the authors have faith in the journal and keep sending in papers for publication.

Our traditional contributors from Indonesia, continue to subscribe to the journal. Thus, the first paper comes from Kundharu Saddhono et al. who have been examining the charm of the Borobudur Temple Architecture. They have focused on the perspectives of the foreign narrators in understanding the Indonesian cultural heritage through the built-forms and spaces of the Borobudur Temple. They conclude that the temple plays an important role in introducing and deepening the understanding of Indonesian culture in the eyes of the world. They argue that the management of the Temple as a cultural site is crucial in enhancing the experiences of the tourists.

Similarly, Ramanathan et al. examine the vernacular heritage and craft traditions. They look specifically at the case of handcrafted Athangudi tiles in Chettinad, India. They show that very few natives are currently involved in manufacturing Athangudi tiles. Moreover, a significant percentage of these craftsmen also belong to the retiring age group. At the same time, migration of Athangudi residents to other jobs is also having an impact on tile manufacturing.

Ernawati et al. examine the hybrid aesthetics in contemporary crafts. They specifically look at the sustainable art and craft and vernacular themes in the Wayang performances in Indonesia. They conclude that four unique roles support the development of sustainable art through cultural preservation. They are: artistic innovation, environmental awareness, local community empowerment and opening of intercultural dialog.

Balakrishnan et.al. examine the possibility of establishing cultural significance of heritage places through value assessment bringing insights from India. They discover that the most dominant heritage values arise out of religion and the multiple ways in which it manifests to enable a two-way connection between the divine and the devout.

On the other hand, Muqoffa et al. examine the multifaceted role of construction materials in Javanese vernacular houses. They reveal that construction materials in Javanese vernacular houses serve several important functions. They provide structural integrity and functionality, uphold culture, enhance sensory experiences, and support sustainable practices.

Altyn et al. examine urbanization and the emergence of small towns. in East Kazakhstan. They conclude that some settlements in East Kazakhstan have been associated with the colonial policy of the Russian Empire. However, they point out that it is easier for the migrants and the villagers to adapt to the towns.

Kasemsarn et al. in contrast review the literature on employing creative tourism to produce city branding derived from vernacular settlements. They conclude that vernacular settlements have a significant relationship with the identity and image of a place, which may be used to attract and engage different audiences through creative tourism and powerful city branding.

Abdul Mannan et al. examine significant historical buildings in vernacular settlements; specifically the characteristics of Achmad Noe'man's mosques constructed during the period 1964-2010. They conclude that the buildings are dominated by a square shape to maximize space efficiency, formed from a composition of massive planes and transparent walls.

Finally, Kumar et al. look at the challenges and opportunities of waterfront public spaces in Indian colonial port cities specifically the Kochi city identifying them as 'vernacular melting Pots' an interesting proposition indeed.

Undeniably, these papers divulge the nuances of the manifestations of culture and traditions as well as unique practices that exist in the vernacular settlements.

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