

# EDITORIAL

The ISVS-13 seminar is picking up momentum with forty papers being registered for presentation in parallel sessions, both in-person and online across two days. Simultaneously, this issue carries 08 papers, some of which have come from the seminar.

In this issue, Jyothis Panicker & Amitava Sarkar examine passive design strategies and thermal performance of vernacular temples in the warm-humid climatic zone of South India. They conclude that adaptation of passive architectural features contribute immensely to improve the thermal performance of the structures and thermal comfort of the users.

In contrast, Hery Priswanto, et al. examine spatial planning of the Islamic Mataram Kingdom in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, an issue that is both vernacular and royal. It specifically looks at the location of the Keputren Kedaton Plered-the Palace of the Princesses and its spatial meanings, which it is pointed out is unusually located outside the Cepuri wall. Findings show that there are several factors contributing to this placement, one of which is that the area is devoted to the King and the sacred ones, so that they may cause no difficulty for women in carrying out their daily activities.

Amita Sinha & Smriti Dhariwal examine myth and placemaking in vernacular settlements and reveal great insights from Vrindavan, India. They reveal that myths are enacted by devotees in making places through active engagement with the physical environment. Built environment and the riverfront are transformed in making places and adding to the permanent structures already in place. These cultural practices are salient in sustaining collective memories of Krishna's play in Vrindavan.

Wijetunge & Gayantha examine an entirely different aspect which relates very much to the elite vernacular often not looked at. They argue that the renowned Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa's domestic projects for the post-colonial elites in Ceylon have associations with the traditional elite architecture and periodic changes. The paper concludes that the three houses examined have let traditional elite architecture associations manifest, and have also adapted periodic changes.

Yofi Irvan Vivian et al. are interested in the practices for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Indonesia. They examine the specific issue of integrating the national perspectives articulated by the Indonesian government with the practices of the indigenous people. They reveal that intangible cultural heritage belonging to the indigenous people are carried out through traditional ceremonies and rituals regulated by customary laws. However, the government is ignorant of them and pays little attention to the fact that they should be incorporated with the state initiated practices.

On the other hand, Ahmad Syauqi et al. examine crime prevention through environmental design and particularly the perceptions of the visitors' about safety at the vernacular coastal tourism destination Palippis in Indonesia. They point out that maintenance, surveillance and arrangement of vegetation and lighting contribute to crime prevention at these vernacular settings.

Prima Dona Hapsari look at the issue of promoting Hindu spiritual activities and preserving the traditions of vernacular communities. Thus, they examine the Balinese Hindu Palm-Leaf Manuscript Literacy Program in Indonesia and point out that Balinese Hindu spiritual activities are still practiced. They argue that, tradition must be preserved by reading the palm-leaf manuscripts called Lontar in order to restore the spiritual practices for future sustainability of the traditions.

Finally, Amala Anna Jacob & Harshita Dashrath examine water sensitivity in historic vernacular urban settings. They conduct a review of published current knowledge and produce a theoretical framework for assessment

Needless to say, these papers divulge the nuances of the manifestations of culture, traditions and the unique practices that exist in the human settlements. This issue of the ISVS e-journal again offers very meaningful studies into the human settlements bringing out insights hitherto not available. We are most encouraged by their contributions and look forward to publishing further research on the cultural practices of human settlements for the enhancement of Knowledge.

**Dr. Ranjith Dayaratne**  
Editor-in-Chief