

EDITORIAL

The year 2025 marks a new direction for the ISVS e-journal. Having been published for two consecutive years for every month with 12 issues per year, ASK has decided to scale down its publication to allow more time for peer review, revisions as well the final preparation of the papers. Indeed, this allows the journal staff in the production room to approach the task more leisurely. Moreover, this has been also necessitated by the fact that it is now published by the Asian School of Knowledge (ASK) jointly with the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. ASK also has initiated several other journal publications it will pay more attention to, while publishing the ISVS e-journal.

From 2025 onwards thus, the ISVS e-journal will have only 6 issues per year: published once every two months. This issue, has nine papers in keeping with the scale-down approach.

Shimaa F. Mohamed, in its first paper, examines the issue of adaptive reuse of historic industrial buildings, which emanates from the fact that old buildings must be re-used whenever possible in order to contribute to sustainability of the built-environment. She brings insights from the Al-Suyouf Factory in Egypt and shows that historical industrial structures in the Middle East and North Africa reflect the intricate exchange of resources and ideas during the late 19th and 20th centuries. These sites are vital components of a contested global heritage that has received insufficient academic attention. In this context, she offers insights from the Al-Suyouf factory in Egypt.

Dilhani & Jayaweera examine a completely different issue. They look at how people living With Nature face the demanding consequences of natural phenomenon. In this connection, the paper reveals the flood risk mitigation strategies in vernacular dwellings of Rathnapura, Sri Lanka. It emphasizes the lack of attention to services such as plumbing and electricity in these dwellings as well as in the modern guidelines.

Hartono et al. take us to Indonesia to examine the Tapis cloth motif design innovations based on natural potential and local wisdom of the Lampung Region. They point out that innovations in the design of Lampung tapis cloth motifs are developed through modifications, adoptions, and new innovative strategies.

In contrast, Ya Nan & Simeon examine the influence of historical events on the progression of vernacular culture. They reveal the impacts of 'new music' on the culture of contemporary China. Given the fact that Le Corbusier commented that architecture is frozen music, the connections can be easily made. These new cultural practices will have implications for architecture.

Similarly, Prusdianto et al. examine traditional theatre as a propaganda media. They focus on the possibility of employing Kondo Buleng Traditional Theatre for inspiring in marine waste management in the Bugis-Makassar coastal community in South Sulawesi, in Indonesia. They point out that theatre could be used not only as a cultural performance, but also as an educational performance beneficial for the environment and the life of the vernacular community itself.

Mamdouh Sakr takes us to Africa. He examines the dwindling vernacular architecture of the Swahili Coast: a cosmopolitan enclave in East Africa. He points out that craftsmen, and builders with knowledge of a lifetime on how to build a traditional Swahili house can still be found today. However, they may not be around tomorrow and therefore, it is essential to take necessary steps to retain those unique skills and knowledge about how to build culturally relevant Swahili houses.

Finally, Barry offers a unique and novel perspective by investigating the cultures and lifestyles revealed through the vernacular Interiors. He presents selected case studies from Ireland and concludes that they offer deep insights into the intricate relations among the spaces, objects and people whose everyday lives unfold cultures and life styles, and enrich the society.

Undeniably, these papers divulge the nuances of the manifestations of culture, traditions and the unique practices that exist in the human settlements, bringing out insights hitherto not available. We are grateful to the authors and wish them a happy and prosperous year 2025.

Dr. Ranjith Dayaratne
Editor-in-Chief