Review Process

Intentions: Papers submitted to the ISVS e-journal undergo a rigorous review process, with its primary intention to ensure that the research presented is of high academic value and report new findings, contributing to and advancing knowledge. Its secondary intention is to facilitate the authors to recognise the weaknesses in their scientific papers if any, and develop them up to the standards expected if possible.

Reviewers: Papers submitted to the ISVS e-journal are reviewed always by two reviewers.

1. One of them is almost always the Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Ranjith Dayaratne who is a full-time editor and is in charge of the publication. He has over 10 years' experience in initiating and editing journals: he has edited this journal since its inception in 2013. He has also edited, 'Forum' in 1992 at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, which he initiated, and 'cities people places' journal published by the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Prior to that, he initiated and edited the 'built-environment-Sri Lanka' published by the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects. He reads every paper at least twice: once at the beginning to offer critical comments, before being sent to another reviewer and after it has been revised to ascertain and ensure that the revisions have been done as recommended, and for follow up.
2. Every paper is also reviewed by one other reviewer: either from the editorial board, from the list of reviewers and sometimes any other subject specialist. When a paper is sent to a member of the editorial board, either he or she will review the paper or may coordinate with another reviewer from the country where he/she resides, depending on the issue and the expertise required, and send back the review to the Editor-in-Chief. If the paper is sent to a reviewer from the list of reviewers, or any other special invitee, then he or she will review the paper and send it back to the Editor-in-Chief.

Review Procedure

1. Once received, each paper is vetted for compatibility with the broad area (not the narrow definition of vernacular) within which the journal publishes: Architecture and human settlements - especially the vernacular practices, which means processes involving ordinary people, without professionals.
2. If unrelated to this broad definition, the author is notified that the paper cannot be accepted for review.
3. Once accepted for review, each paper is assigned an identity number. The paper is reviewed first by the Editor-in-Chief. This may take either of the two forms: track change comments embedded in the paper itself, or completion of the standard review form. The comments are not shared with anyone.
4. It is then blinded and presented to an independent reviewer for close examination and for review comments on a structured review form (available in the website).
5. Once the external review is received, the two reviews (one from the external and the other by the Editor-in-Chief) are compiled as one and sent to the authors with instructions to revise and develop the paper. The review recommendations could be either: 'reject', 'minor revisions', 'major revisions' or 'accepted as submitted'. It should be noted, that ISVS e-journal has never issued 'accepted as submitted' as a review recommendation. Almost all, often receive 'major revision' recommendations and some, vert rarely, a 'minor revision'.
6. The authors should revise and send the paper back to the Editor-in Chief, who will check the revisions for compliance with the comments.
7. If the revision is poor, it will then be returned to the author with further comments. This process happens only one time to ensure the paper is properly revised and developed if so possible. If there are minor lapses, such as incomplete references, they will be sent back for revision and perfection.
8. In the cases if an author fails to develop the paper even after the second review and revision, then the paper is rejected.

9. If revisions are done up to the standards expected, then the paper is provisionally accepted for publication and move to final check-up for clarity of language and formatting issues.
10. However, papers with poor language are not accepted, and it is the responsibility of the authors to have their English writing refined, when the reviewers indicate that the language is poor.
11. The author will be informed that the paper will be accepted provided that all the language and formatting issues are resolved although some minor editing is always be done by the Editor-in-Chief. If not, the paper will be rejected.

Separate Editorial Services

If the authors cannot do the language and formatting corrections done by themselves and seek editorial services, then ISVS e-journal may offer to do so. This, however, is a separate eservice which is done by a professional editor sourced outside and a fee will be involved depending on the complexity of the task. This is not part of the review process. The authors have a choice: do it by themselves, hire someone else or seek services from the ISVS e-journal. This service is offered because most authors are from developing countries and have poor language skills. ISVS e-journal does not publish papers with poor language.