

# EDITORIAL

We are delighted to bring to you this issue of the Archi-Texts e-journal newly published by the Asian School of Knowledge (ASK). With this new journal along with a number of other initiatives, ASK established in 2024 has consolidated its presence in association with the ISVS taking forward both the International Seminar on Vernacular Settlements (ISVS) and the ISVS e-journal.

This maiden issue has five papers which amply articulate the stance the journal is taking in promoting a new direction of research related to built-environments. As we have said in the introduction to Archi-Texts e-journal, in the current journal landscape on architecture, there is a notable absence of research publications that address the central tenant of design. We all know that the core activity of all the architectural professions such as the main stream architecture, interior design and landscape architecture is the creation of spatial experiences by articulating forms, materials, textures, colours and multi-faceted characteristics of built-things. However, the essence lies in the non-built: the spaces that arise from those articulations. Nevertheless, most contemporary research on built-environments: architecture, interior design and landscape architecture have chosen to focus on the peripheral issues of the built-environments rather than this central issue of spatial experience. In this context, this journal offers opportunities for those who explore this undeniable spatial experiential relationship that manifest between people and spaces.

In the first paper of this issue, Zhaina Tolegen, Bayan Kaderbieke & Dina Amandykova examine the issue of urban Interventions in the city of Almaty, Kazakhstan to reveal how they humanize the urban spaces there. They point out that humanization of urban open spaces near residential buildings built over the past ten years in Almaty is an urgent need. They employ pre-project analysis of the territory, sketches, photography, observations of pedestrian behaviour and development of the theoretical concept of the project and discover that in Almaty, urban transformations are taking place grounded in the principles of creating inclusive, vibrant, and safe urban environments. They point out that these transformations not only enhance the aesthetic experience of the areas but also contribute to increased social interactions among the residents.

In the second paper, Shaila Naaz and Samiuddin examine the impact of urbanization on the historical buildings in Old Delhi, India: They particularly investigate the effects of rapid urbanization on the Kalan Masjid historical mosque in Old Delhi. They highlight the issue of encroachment around the mosque located in the midst of a complex series of residential buildings. They have employed site visits and analysis to reveal the site-specific conditions and have carried out literature studies. Site visits have involved observations, and interviews conducted through a questionnaire. They finally propose a set of guidelines to control these developments to ensure that historical structures remain wholesome and meaningful to the people.

In contrast, Resza Riskiyanto, Yandi Andri Yatmo & Paramita Atmodiwirjo look at the idea of collage and the system of objects in making interior spaces in a Javanese contemporary house in Indonesia. They argue that a collage can be used as a method for designing three-dimensional architectural spaces, especially those involving various objects from different times and origins to build clear meanings in interior space. They employ a case study to produce evidence for this approach by dismantling objects and spaces of the contemporary Javanese house. They argue that understanding the dialogue between time and the origins of various objects can help read their role in building the quality of space that changes dynamically by presenting various new meanings. They conclude two important things regarding the potential of collage techniques used as a design method. The first thing is the use of collage to involve the articulation of elements, materials and objects from various times and origins. The second is that the techniques related to object systems needs to be seen as a continuous process because the value and meaning always change depending on the evolution of them.

Tanisha Rampal, Pooja Sahoo, Bhoomi Chawra & Nisha Sharma look at a more simplistic situation. They delve into the pivotal interior design components that shape the allure of these showrooms and their impact on the overall retail experience. Supported by a mix of primary and secondary case studies from a number of showrooms they provide valuable insights to help optimize interior design for an inviting and memorable shopping atmosphere in Jewellery showrooms.

Amal Salah Hasan Ali Hasan takes us outdoors to examine the sense of community present in gated communities in Bahrain. They point out that community bonds are developed and maintained through neighborhoods. To investigate, they employ unstructured interviews and a questionnaire administered to a sample of residents of Awali Town. The findings reveal that sense of community present in Awali town is high, due to motivational aspects, living experiences and the social relationships that manifest through space.

Undeniably, these papers divulge the nuances of the manifestations of spatial experiences in a variety of situations bringing out insights hitherto not available. We are grateful to the authors for the insights shared. We look forward to their active contributions in the future too.

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