

## EDITORIAL

This volume of the ISVS e-journal comes into being at a critical juncture of the ISVS movement. This year, ISVS seminar will take place online for the first time, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and we are unlikely to meet personally for a long time to come. ISVS e-journal has also begun to shift its focus from being strictly confined to the vernacular settlements, to generally deal with all settlements including the vernacular. Indeed, it has come to the realization, that all settlements in fact consist of traits of vernacular, and that the ways in which the developments are taking place in the world have made a fusion between the vernacular and non-vernacular inevitable.

In this context, the first paper by Siti Rukayah, Wahyul Amien Syafei, Muhammad Abdullah and Annica Etenia, take us yet again to the vernacular in Indonesia in the paper titled, “the diversity of multi-ethnic Dutch area corridors leading to the city square of Semarang, Indonesia”. Here, they trace the ways in which the Dutch occupied Semarang, transforms its urban corridors, leading to the city center, inhabited by multi-ethnic communities of Arabs, the Chinese as well as the Indonesians in the construction of commercial regions along these corridors. The paper demonstrates that the pattern is always the same, and that this system could be recognized as a potential pattern to be instigated and promoted in urban developments in Semarang.

In contrast, Richa Jagatramka, Ashwani Kumar and Satish Pipralia look at the transformations of the vernacular architecture of India, to identify the problems and prospects of inevitable change. By adopting a systematic documentary review, with data collection on transformations in different climatic zones, they identify the different types of transformations that exist in the Indian rural landscape. The paper offers a meaningful categorization of the reasons for the transformations and argue that regulations are needed to manage orderly transformations.

Ina Helena Agustina on the other hand examine the most critical issue facing the vernacular settlements today; the provision of health and well-being to the residents of vernacular settlements during the pandemic. She examines the vulnerability of the Magersari heritage settlement in Keraton, Kasepuhan in Indonesia, for pandemics and especially the case of Covid-19.

Fermanto Lianto, Naniek Widayati Priyomarsono, Lewin Nuramin and Beatrice Wiratno offer a new perspective of the vernacular settlements in Bali, Indonesia, where a unique ‘*genius-loci*’ had enabled the transformation of that island to an enchanted tourist destination. In this paper, they discuss how to ensure that *genius-loci*, based on spatial experiences in tourist developments. Taking the cases of three resorts in Ubud, the paper demonstrates that the *genius-loci* of resorts arise from the natural resources, the landscape, and the respective architectural designs of the resorts of Ubud.

Finally, Jeeva Wijesundara, U.G.D Weerasinghe and L.S.R. Perera tell us that Inhabitants’ satisfaction is an essential indication of neighbourhood sustainability. By examining an urban neighbourhood in Colombo, they provide significant insights into the ways in which people perceive and evaluate if a neighbourhood indeed is responding to its fundamental responsibility of being sustainable: environmentally, socially and from an economic point of view.

Altogether, this issue of the ISVS e-journal provides us with yet another set of interesting perspectives on vernacular: in terms of spatial experiences, urban growth as well as sustainability.

As to be expected, the ISVS-10 taking place in India in February 2021 will focus on the need for the “re-domestication of the world after the pandemic”, by means of revisiting the origins and manifestations of the vernacular settlements. Needless to say, a number of papers on this theme will come to be published in the coming issues.

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