

EDITORIAL

2021 has come to an end with a 'new normal' having been firmly established. With the COVID 19 and its variants, the pandemic is slowly but surely defining the way we will live in years to come. The ISVS e journal 9.1 arrives in this context.

The first paper by Aastha Thappa, Anoop Kumar Sharma, and Satyanshu Kumar offer us lessons on vernacular architecture and sustainability. The paper explores several dimensions of sustainability: environmental sustainability, socio-cultural sustainability, and socio-economic sustainability. Taking examples from Turkey and India, it demonstrates clearly that vernacular architecture indeed is sustainable, and that there are many lessons to be learnt from the vernacular settlements.

On the other hand, Rudy Trisno, Lewin Nuramin, and Fermanto Lianto show how identity is established in tourist resorts in Bali, Indonesia, through vernacular metaphors and construction technologies: Bali's resort hotel designs have been examined. The paper shows that most resort hotels have infused a cultural identity of vernacular through various aspects of the lobby, mainly through a form of roof construction modified in terms of materials used. Reinvigorating tradition through the use of metaphors from vernacular is shown to be effective, and construction technology can be used to extend the cultural identity of Bali in response to globalization.

Gun Faisal and Dimas Wihardiyanto examine the forms and spatial characteristics of Proto Malay houses. They discuss the lessons learnt from tribal houses in the coastal East Sumatra, Indonesia. The paper notes that form and space characteristics in the Proto Malay tribal residences emphasize efficiency and flexibility. Spaces in residential homes are always divided into three parts, with the middle part being the core because that is where most of the time and household activities are carried out.

Supawadee Chuapram and Tanasun Tapparut look at the plurality of the vernacular houses of Orang Siam in the Northern States of Malaysia. According to this paper, most houses of Orang Siam in Kelantan have maintained the old patterns except form. The semi-detached and single houses have extended the roof to expand the utility space. Nevertheless, both areas have still maintained the beliefs in Buddhism, kinship and Thainess.

In the next paper, Lucia Helly Purwaningsih, Lilianny Arifin, and Bachtiar Fauzy look at the character of Tangerang's Chinatown, Indonesia. The paper shows that the Chinatown area of Tangerang old Market has undergone a dynamic change in the patterns of the area.

Raj K Meghana and Rao Rajshekhar look at the ancient landscape groves of India: They examine the case of Nallur Thopu, Devanahalli, Bangalore, India to show that this grove is subjected to anthropogenic pressure, vandalism, misuse and neglect. Hence, they suggest that a proper management plan to accommodate the local people, and to manage the crowd during the festivals is essential to protect this grove.

Amos Setiadi and Verza Dillano Gharata look at the Influence of tourism on settlement patterns in a traditional village in Bali, Indonesia. The paper demonstrates successful efforts to develop the right ways to overcome the effects of tourism by adapting and not isolating traditional settlements from global developments.

Finally, Panuwat Sawasdee and Chaturun Phiboon show us how vernacular is adaptable. Their paper shows adaptation of vernacular houses to coastal basin environments of Pak Phanang, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand. Overall, this issue of the ISVS e-journal presents interesting, enriching and insightful viewpoints on a variety of aspects and traits of vernacular built environments.

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