

Editorial

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This issue of A|Z is welcoming special dossier on architecture and is called **“Cultural Transitions in Ottoman Architecture”**. Its editors are Bilge Ar and Gül Cephaneçil. With their hard work, it has been possible to collect valuable contribution of the authors specialized on the theme of cultural transitions in Ottoman architecture in the field of architectural history. The variety of the articles encompass a wide spectrum of time period to examine the cultural transitions; and they trace the activities of architects coming from different geographies, missionary activities in Anatolia, symbolic meaning transitions, historicist shape references, 19th century Istanbul pluralism, and use of different materials.

In the theory section of this issue, there are five articles, and they contribute to the design theory and design implementation.

The first article, by Nezi̇ AYIRAN, **“Designerly way of understanding the role of theory”** discusses theory as instrument to guide practice. Its assumed role as “integrating”, “connecting”, “linking” or “bridging gap” between theory and practice is challenged by arguing that the architectural theory has the mission to bring a hidden pattern into being. According to the author, by nature of architectural design process, a new relationship between theory and practice needs to be established. This article promises to evoke a new debate in architectural design theory circles.

Another article is written by Ozan AVCI, called **“Rethinking architectural perspective through reverse perspective in Orthodox Christian iconography”**. The author aims to generate a debate on architectural representation in the context of contemporary thought of space, time and body relations. He claims that the concepts of space, time and body have been changing with technological developments, yet without letting architects perceive their reflections on architectural representation.

The second article by Zeynep TUNA

ULTAV, called **“An interdisciplinary perspective for reading utopia versus dystopia: “The Ultimate City” By J.G. Ballard”** dwells on another very significant aspect of the field of architecture, which is its interdisciplinary nature. More specifically, the relationship between architectural discourse and the “literary spaces” within texts is the topic of this article. With an interdisciplinary approach, the contradiction between the concepts of “utopia” and “dystopia” is examined in J.G. Ballard’s story *The Ultimate City*. This article aims to contribute to the methodology of architecture, by introducing a creative tool from science fiction literature.

This third article is written by Elçin TAŞ and Özge FIRTINA, and is called **“The use of dispute review boards in construction projects: A comparison of Turkey, UK and US”** In the practice of architecture, a crucial point of disputes between parties involved in the construction sector. The article contributes to construction policy by discussing the potential use of the DRB (the Dispute Review Board) in construction projects in Turkey by comparing DRB usage in the US and the UK. The field survey conducted in different geographical and cultural contexts. The findings were evaluated and discussed as to their positive and negative aspects of the use of DRBs, with particular reference to Turkey

The final article in the theory part of this issue is co-authored by Dilek YILDIZ, and Gülten MANIOĞLU, called **“Evaluating sustainability and energy efficiency of a traditional climate responsive housing: The case of Samanbahçe Settlement in Cyprus”**, and it talks about the aim of this study is to analyze the original state of the sustainability of a historical settlement in Cyprus; in both design and energy efficiency. The impact of modifications on the sustainability is analyzed through field survey and suggestions are made on ways of restoring the original positive features based on the fieldwork. This article contributes to understanding of holistic sustainability through preserving the old design features and still meeting the contemporary needs of 21st century dwellers.

We hope you enjoy this issue full of contributing authors; and awaits your very informative articles, thanks to the articles in the future issues of A|Z.