

E d i t o r i a l

Gül KOÇLAR ORAL / Editor

A|Z ITU Journal-Faculty of Architecture has internationally acknowledged articles, meritorious referees and serves information on multiple areas in architecture, design and planning. This elegant journal is twelve years old by this issue. It's a great honour for me to be the acting editor for this issue of A|Z ITU Journal-Faculty of Architecture. In this issue we present a special dossier subject and six articles in the theory section.

The dossier subject for this A|Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture issue is “**Space Syntax**” and it is edited by Prof. Ayşe Sema KUBAT, PhD from Istanbul Technical University. Space Syntax approach was first developed at the University College London (UCL), afterwards it was further investigated in several universities, educational institutions and professional practices. This simulation-based approach is aimed at architects, planners and urban designers and this dossier investigates the “Space Syntax” concept through fourteen articles, most of which were selected by the members of the Steering Committee from the studies presented in SSS9 Seoul, Korea (2013) and SSS8 Santiago, Chili (2012) Symposia. The articles in this special issue are reviewed by a number of international referees, most of whom were the referees for the Space Syntax Symposia.

Besides the dossier section, this issue consists of six articles in the theory section, addressing significant architectural issues:

The **first article** entitled ‘Access to healthcare: A survey in Istanbul’ is written by Paköz M.Z and Yüzer M.A. Accessibility in cities is a crucial topic, especially when the “healthcare” typology is taken into consideration. This survey-based article investigates access to healthcare concept on the example of Istanbul through a field survey conducted with the participation of 756 households. This interesting study contributes to the available literature by a discussion of supply of health services from various aspects and reveals the relationship between user (patient) behaviour and the characteristics of the city, including related distance thresholds and border-crossings.

The **second article** entitled ‘Integration and urban mobility of migrant women pilot project findings based on knowledge and experience transfer’ is written by Oğuz M. and Özçevik Ö. This study aims to investigate the difficulties migrant women are facing within the city of immigration and the physical barriers in front of their integration to the city. In this research, integration of a model from Berlin is performed to Istanbul, in order to provide behavioral and perceptive changes in migrant women’s use and awareness of public spaces.

The **third article** entitled ‘A study on determining the optimal energy retrofit strategies for an existing residential building in Turkey’ is written by Mangan S.D. and Oral G.K. This study stresses the importance of “energy efficiency” concept in architecture. In this article, strategies regarding the improvement of energy performance in residential buildings are developed for different climate regions in Turkey with the aim of achieving optimum benefit for the country’s resources and decision makers. Accordingly, developed strategies

are evaluated in terms of their energy, economic and environmental performance for the investigated residential building typology. With the use of this holistic approach, it is suggested that obtained findings in this study could be a basis for laws and regulations on designing and retrofitting buildings as well as making decisions, which may provide maximum benefit for the country's resources.

The **fourth article** entitled 'Building form effects on energy efficient heat pump application for different climatic zones' written by Erdim B. and Manioğlu G. Comprising the issue of energy efficiency in built environment, proposal of an approach is performed in this study in order to control the energy consumption of heat pumps for different climatic zones in Turkey. In this manner, four different building forms (square, rectangular, L-shaped and H-shaped) with same floor area, volume and optical and thermo physical properties of building envelope are examined in temperate, hot and cold zones of Turkey by using a building simulation program, e-QUEST and related calculations are performed by the use of a building energy simulation program.

The **fifth article** entitled 'A computational model for mass customized housing design by using cellular automata' is written by Dinçer E.A., Çağdaş G. and Tong H. This computational-based study introduces the "Cellular Automata (CA)" digital design approach, which aims to meet the needs of the users and to provide uniqueness, variety and flexibility in terms of the design. In this study, a model considering user participation for mass customized housing is presented with a digital approach. Developed model is tested by using 'user scenarios' in a site plan and obtained results are discussed from the point of view of innovative architecture.

The **sixth article** entitled 'A fuzzy AHP model for designing spatial relations in user perspective' written by Bayram A.K.Ş. and Şener S.M. presents a study on the development of a fuzzy AHP model for evaluation of user-centered design process. The selected application example is 'hospital buildings' for this study. By looking at the accessibility needs of users in hospital, this research aims to create a new model that helps architects to design user-centered. This study shows that fuzzy AHP method can also be used in non-parametric areas such as architecture and to clear the fuzziness of subjective needs.

My hope is that the articles will bring the field of research on technology, design and planning, a little further ahead and will give you new thoughts and insights. In this regard, I want to express my deepest appreciation to the experts, who served as authors of the articles. Lastly, I want to personally thank the wonderful and dedicated staff of the Secretarial Board of A/Z ITU Journal-Faculty of Architecture, Buket Metin, Koray Gelmez, Feride Şener Yılmaz, Sibel Yasemin Özgan.